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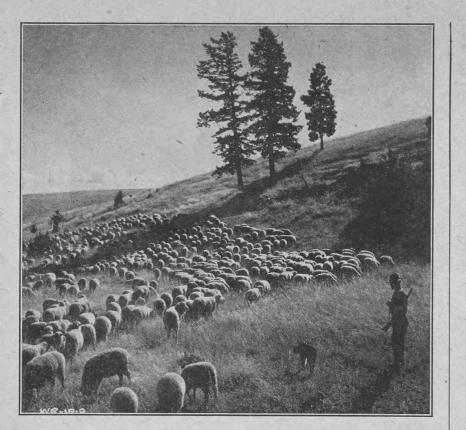
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### THE Country GUIDE

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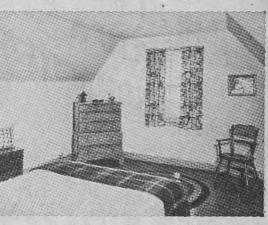
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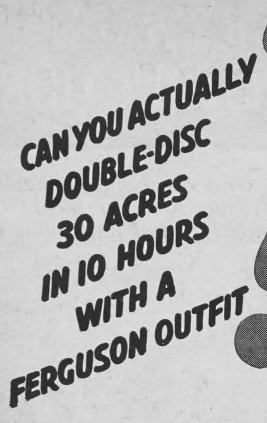
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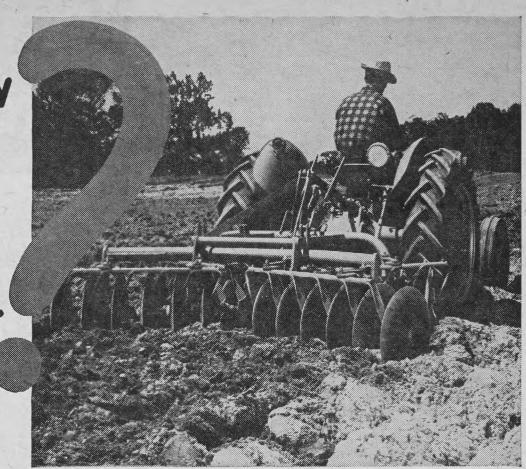
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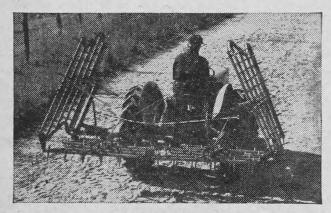
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## FERGUSON.

Twenty 5

THE TRACTOR WITH THE ONE AND ONLY FERGUSON SYSTEM

#### Under the Peace Tower

by HUGH BOYD

MONG subjects which hardly make for light and airy conversation are freight rates and federal-provincial relations. Both-es pecially the former-may be assigned to the category "important, but dull," and only the most tough-minded would venture to broach either of them at an informal gathering in Ottawa; even when serious topics are discussed.

Yet there are signs of awakening interest, for which some recent developments are responsible.

First of all, on the freight rates front, there was a touch of the dramatic in February's judgment of the Board of Transport Commissioners that jolted many Easterners out of their indifference. For here was not only a denial of the C.P.R.'s long and determined appeal for a new rate-setting formula, based on the Company's notions of attracting new investment capital, but also a blunt denial of any further raising of the general freight rates ceiling at this time. This calling of a halt to a process which began six years ago, has caused comment even among people who felt that truck competition made them tolerably secure from rate increases.

Now comes the Board with the statement that the railways are in danger of pricing themselves out of the market, as a result of mounting tolls; and with its rejection of any further increases at this time. The judgment has captured more than usual attention in these parts, because of the unmistakable challenge to labor, which is held largely responsible for the difficulties Canadian railways have in keeping their costs low enough to meet competition.

Less attention has been paid, so far, to other remarks of the Board about the problem of the railways, including its muted reference to frozen rates on grain for export out of the prairie provinces. More sensitive western ears have doubtless picked up this part, which may yet become a subject for debate in the Commons. There is no reason why it should not, for the Crow's Nest Pass rates are under parliamentary control, and the situation has obviously changed since the thirties, when these charges, unprofitable as they may be now, were oppressively high, in relation to the grower's receipts for his grain. The chances of an upward adjustment are, however, considerably weakened by the C.P.R.'s insistence on the rigid observance of such a contract as its 1881 escape from municipal taxation in Winnipeg (since adjusted by compromise.-ed.)

MEANWHILE, the federal government has other things to ponder, resulting from the Privy Council decision as to control over interprovincial and international truck and bus operations. This is now Ottawa's baby. Ottawa is trying to work out an arrangement with the provinces, which is logical enough, considering that the provinces build and maintain the roads over which the chief railway competitors run. Yet uniform provincial regulations seem unlikely to be achieved.

At any rate, this development has drawn attention still further to a sub-



ject of small general interest hitherto in eastern Canada.

As to that other topic already described as important but dull, federal-provincial relations are coming forward once again because of the activities of Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec. His insistence on provincial income tax, wholly deductible from the federal tax, is only the latest in a series of moves which, taken together, set one province not only against the central government, but against all the other partners of Confederation.

Nine provinces have managed to reach agreement with Ottawa-to their own advantage in discharging their responsibilities under the constitution -for the rental of certain fields of direct taxation. Quebec remains stiffnecked on the question.

THIS is no isolated instance. The present Quebec government also remains aloof on such matters as the trans-Canada highway, a national forestry policy, and grants to universities, although the other provinces are willing participants in these ventures. Moreover, Quebec has enacted at least one law, which could eventually result in a clash with the federal government. That is its censorship of films used in television programs. There is also, of course, the repressive act aimed at the Jehovah Witnesses sect, but which might also be interpreted to have a considerably wider application.

In addition to all this, questions have been recently raised in the Commons as to the progress of talks with the provinces, on the question of a wholly made-in-Canada constitution. Here again, Mr. Duplessis is the major obstacle to agreement, in spite of protestations of a desire for co-operation with the rest of Canada, he has made it plain enough that he will cling to the veto power over constitutional amendments. No other province goes nearly as far in this respect.

So, what with the rail and road transport problem, and the generally obdurate attitude of the present regime in Quebec toward its neighbors, there is sufficient food for thought on Parliament Hill quite apart from international affairs, unemployment, and taxes.



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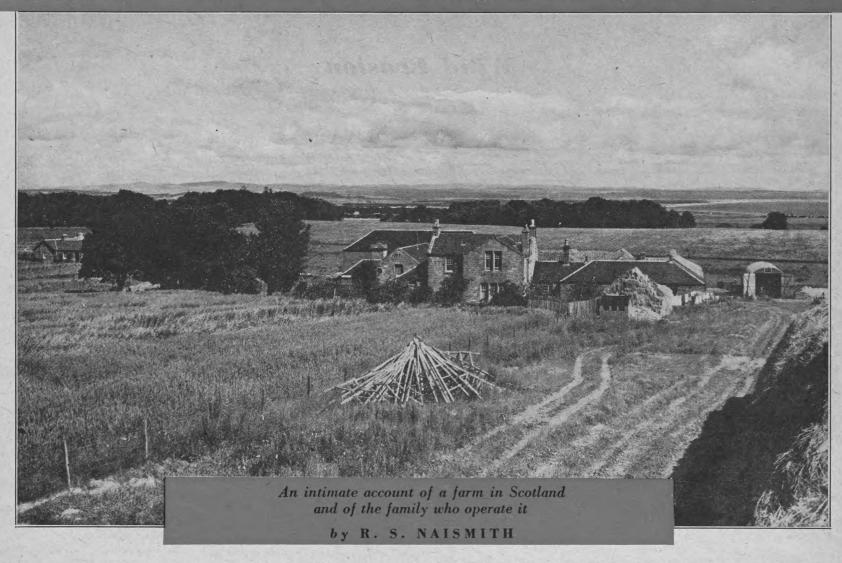




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### The STRATTONS of Langraw



Langraw farmhouse, with St. Andrew's Bay (upper right), and the hills of Perthshire and Angus in the distance.

HE County of Fife is said to be "a beggar's mantle fringed with gold." The rich thousandacre farms around the coastline grow large crops and fat cattle, but the smaller farms of 50 to 100 acres on the high ground, need a man with a stout heart to make ends meet at all. Langraw lies between these two extremes and is an average Scottish family farm of some 300 acres.

A hundred and fifty acres are under the plow each year, about 100 acres are under grass, and the remainder is rough grazing, scrub and woodland. Old Mr. Stratton, who owns the farm, is still very much the boss, in spite of his four-score years. He farms in partnership with his son, Alastair, aged 30; and the rest of the family consists of Mrs. Stratton and daughter Betty. Another son, Ian, left his native land for Canada, and is now farming near Edmonton.

Alastair runs the farm with the help of a tractorman, a boy, and a cattleman. These men live in their own cottages beside the farm buildings. The day I arrived, the man and the boy were on holiday.

There was no cattleman either, the last one having left some weeks before. Good men to do this job are very hard to get, involving as it does a sevenday week. No young men are learning to be cattlemen: they prefer the high wages, short hours and other amenities of the city.

Alastair was glad to see me, as he looked up from tinkering with his combine harvester. Mr. and Mrs. Stratton were having a rest in their beautiful garden, and Betty was coping with the dishes after the mid-day meal. Looking around the new implement shed, which was built last year, I could see the three tractors standing among their varied assortment of plows, harrows, grubbers and trailers. In a corner stood the hydraulic dung loader, for attachment to the front of one of the tractors, and beside it the special trailer with dung spreader. A green-crop loader stood waiting to be cleaned, after its job of harvesting the 16 acres of silage had been completed. Outside the implement shed was the silage pit, its contents now covered over and packed tightly with earth.

TITH a shortage of labor, mechanization is Alastair is specially proud of his way of gathering the silage: he drives one tractor with mid-mounted be filled. The boy uses his tractor to run back and forwards over the cut grass, pressing it down firmly. The main reason for making silage at all, apart from its value as a winter feed, is that it cuts down the acreage of roots needed. Silage can be harvested mechanically, whereas turnips require a considerable amount of manpower to thin, hoe and finally

essential to the efficient running of the farm. mower, which pulls the trailer and green-crop loader. The man drives another tractor, which takes full loads to the pit and leaves an empty trailer to

field. Mrs. Stratton and Betty were baking, partly to supplement the farmhouse larder and partly as their contribution toward the "tea" during the Women's Rural Institute concert to be held in the parish hall that evening. Both Mrs. Stratton and Betty are very active members of this gathering of country women. Mrs. Stratton has been president of the local branch of the W.R.I. and Betty is at present treasurer. These

ladies meet monthly in the hall for talks by experts

pull and shaw (top) before loading into carts. This

labor, especially at thinning time, is often not avail-

able, so the making of silage relieves the farmer of

Having finished greasing the combine, Alastair decided that it was time to have a look around the

stock. Before setting out, he went to the old stone

farmhouse to pick up his gun and let the collie

loose. Mr. Stratton was cutting the lawn, pausing

only to give his son some instruction about seeing

that the water pipe was working in the far away

one of his many headaches.

on gardening, poultry keeping, beekeeping, dressmaking or baking. Displays of handiwork are given and visits made to places of interest, such as the sugar beet factory and to the meeting places of other branches, for exchanges of views and ideas. But tonight was a very special night-a concert was being given to raise funds so that the old folk in the parish might be taken for a bus run and given tea among the beautiful scenery of the Highlands.

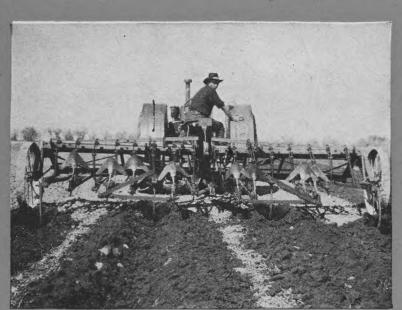
In the most modern kitchen, sunlight streamed over the plants which Mrs. Stratton grows on the sill of the large window overlooking the garden. Both the electric cooker and solid fuel cooker were being used. Mrs. Stratton

(Please turn to page 58)



## We Can Save Soils from

#### Wind Erosion



Both duckfoot cultivators and one-way disks can be converted to listers in dry, hot summers for use in checking soil drifting.



s field at Hutton, Alta., photographed by author in the spring 1935, was not considered reclaimable by the owner, but . . .



The author, now retired from the superintendency of the Lethbridge Experimental Station, here sums up forty years of dry farming experience

OULD we prevent the excessive soil losses from wind erosion that were experienced in the "thirties," if a similar period of several years of drought occurred again? This grave question was put to me by the editor of The Country Guide and is one that should be given serious

No one wants to see thousands of acres made, in a single sweep to look like a desert, and the soil permanently injured by the loss of the valuable topsoil as these lands were injured. Have we an answer? Yes, I think we have.

During the thirties we found that every situation encountered could be met satisfactorily. It proved to be merely a matter of using proper methods, at the right time and place. Drifts involving up to 8,000 acres were stopped by alternate strip-listing and cropping. Drift dunes were stabilized by covering with straw, until crops could be started, or by waiting until the spring winds died down in June and then seeding with the hope that the crop would cover the ground before a drifting wind was experienced.

Usually, this late seeding was successful. Then we learned that a field could be stabilized before seeding, by plowing the drift soil under, and seeding immediately. This was successful, of course, only where the drift material was not too deep to cover with the moldboard plow. These were some of the methods we learned, after many trials and some failures, for meeting the extreme conditions that had been permitted to develop to the point where serious soil damage had occurred.

The knowledge gained of how to control bad drifts is valuable, but of greater worth have been the practices developed to prevent these emergency conditions from developing. It is not an exaggeration to say that we know how to keep our soils from drifting. The basic principles have been well proven, and are simple. The first, and most fundamental, is to keep the soil covered with either live or dead vegetation. The second is to have the soil surface rough or cloddy enough to resist wind action, if the vegetative cover is not sufficient. A third principle, that is still fundamental, is that fallowing only in strips is much less hazardous than fallowing large blocks. Fourth, some soils drift so easily that it is not safe to fallow them at any time, so continuous cropping must be practiced. The fifth that must be remembered is that some soils, in certain locations, are not suitable for tillage, and should be left in grass.

NDOUBTEDLY many who read this will say that it theorizes very well, but let another long drought period come and the principles mentioned just will not meet the situation. To such doubters may I say that during the dry "thirties" they did work effectively on hundreds of farms. It was my privilege during that trying period to travel over the entire drought area from western Manitoba to the Rockies and I found farmers everywhere who were holding their soil. Then, too, may I remind you that in 1935 and 1936 the experimental stations on the prairies developed substations on farms in their districts to work out erosion control.

In practically every case, the situation was met on these farms. In the area served by the Lethbridge Station, we established these district experiment sub-stations on farms in districts where wind erosion was the most severe; and every one of them was operated on a practical basis without serious drifting. On one farm, two seedings blew out in the spring of 1936. The farmer then entered into a sub-station contract with us and we got the third seeding established. He has continued to follow good erosion control practices and has had no more serious trouble. Many other farmers, working on their own, have had simi-

Yes, I am quite certain that another drought period like the "thirties" can be met without extensive wind erosion. However, I am also quite sure that if such a drought occurs we will have serious drifting; not as widespread as before, but bad enough. Too many will not meet situations properly as they arise. If grasshoppers or cutworms destroy a crop, or the soil is so dry that seeds do not germinate and the field is left bare, the operator, too frequently, will fail to rough up the field before it starts to drift, or plow the dust mulch under and re-seed. Or if a bad drift starts, he will not make a lister of his cultivator or one-way and list the field before the drifting soil involves his other fields to the leaward, and eventually his neighbors'.

Such conditions may be expected, but they won't be as numerous and as widespread as they were in the "thirties," for almost everyone knows how to handle such situations now.

(Please turn to page 62)

## Wind and Water Erosion

#### Water Erosion

That wind erosion can be prevented and water erosion controlled is the conviction expressed herein, based on the fact that both have been done many times

PALMER

The erosive action of water can cause serious damage to fields, by cutting gullies, and by removing soil in a less spectacular way by sheet erosion. Sheet erosion often goes unnoticed until several inches of soil have been lost without the operator of the land becoming aware of it. Water erosion is especially destructive on hilly or other steep lands, and while it is more troublesome in the areas of higher rainfall, steep lands in all precipitation belts suffer, especially from heavy downpours when the ground is bare.

Bare soil is the chief factor contributing to water erosion, as it is to wind erosion. Therefore, the first and usually the most important method of control is to keep the soil covered wherever possible. Trash cover farming is as important for water erosion control, as it is for preventing soil drifting. Not only does the trash on the surface of the fallow check the flow of water and hold the soil in place against the erosive action of the water, but it also facilitates the entrance of the water into the soil and thereby reduces run-off.

When raindrops hit bare soil, they tend to break up the soil particles and churn them up into a muddy solution, which filters into the soil pores and seals them up. This prevents, or checks the water from entering the soil. It has been found that a heavy downpour on bare soil may seal the soil within 20 minutes, so that only 10 to 20 per cent as much water will penetrate the soil in a given time, as it did when the storm first started. Where the surface is protected by growing vegetation or by a trash cover, this covering breaks the force of the rain and prevents the puddling of the topsoil. Protected in this way, soil has been found to have a much higher infiltration rate for water than does a bare soil, as the storm con-

As indicated above, the soil covering not only facilitates the entrance of water into the soil, but it also checks the flow of water that tends to run down the slopes. This holding back of the water allows it more time to enter the soil; it also decreases the velocity, and therefore the erosive capacity of the water. Further, the plant material tends to bind the soil together and thus keeps it from being washed away.

The most effective soil cover for preventing water erosion is provided by growing plants that have a dense, fibrous root system and thus form a heavy sod. Therefore, grass is of major importance in preventing water erosion. For this reason, excessively steep lands or lands that for other reasons are difficult to control against the erosive action of water usually are seeded down to grass.

WHERE it is necessary to leave the soil bare for any length of time, it becomes very desirable to have soil obstructions that will check the flow of the water. The best way to create such obstruction with the least difficulty, is to do all cultivating on the contour, that is, across the slopes of the land instead of up and down slopes. Almost all cultivating implements tend to leave little furrows and ridges. This is true whether the implement be a cultivator of the duckfoot type, of the disk type, or even the moldboard plow. Drills also leave furrows.

If these furrows run across the slope, as occurs in contour farming, each little furrow tends to create a basin for holding water and a dam for preventing the water from running down the slope, and thus gives it more time to soak into the soil where it falls. Conversely, if these furrows extend down the slope, they furnish channels for leading the water off the land into the water courses, where it forms gullies.

Water erosion control practices have been developed on sub-stations operated by the Lethbridge Experimental Station in southern Alberta. At the Pincher Creek Sub-station, where the rainfall averages over 20 inches per year, and where much of the land is steep, trash cover and contour farming have proved very valuable. On this farm, however, some slopes are so steep that it is not safe to cultivate the land, so they have been seeded down to permanent grass. Other lands are seldom summerfallowed, because it is too dangerous to leave the soil bare for any length of time, or even protected by a trash cover. Other fields can be considered quite safe with a good trash cover.

At the Nobleford Sub-station, out on the prairie where the precipitation is 16 inches per year, the situation is not as acute but there are some medium-steep slopes on this farm. For many years this land was cultivated north and south in strips, without any thought of contour cultivation. However, during the last four years it has been farmed on the contour, and the

(Please turn to page 61)



Strip cropping (upper center) and contour cultivation (lower center) discourage run-off and hold moisture where it is needed.



This picture shows the birth of a gully. The bare fallow, the slope and the direction of cultivation made gullying inevitable.



Finger gullying on the hillside and sheet erosion down below are the twins born of poor tillage practices on western farms.



Quesan turned and slowly circled the toboggan. The scent of the man he hated was rank in his nostrils.

UESAN lifted his great black muzzle to the darkness of the heavens and sobbed out his grief.

The sound was not unlike the mournful clamor with which he sometimes greeted the risen moon, and yet there was a subtle difference.

There was no moon in the sky tonight; there were not even stars. But in the little house, a few yards away, yellow lights burned in every window, and people moved softly and anxiously.

How Quesan knew what he knew, no man can say. He had seen the tall man with the long black coat and the little black bag—a frequent visitor for the last few days—come hurrying to the house, and but a moment before

he had seen the same man leave the house, slowly, closing the door very gently behind him. Perhaps he had even heard the soft sobbing of a woman and the gentle, comforting murmur of other voices. Perhaps.

But, at any rate, Quesan knew now that his master was dead, and he lifted his black muzzle to the darkness of the heavens and sobbed out his grief.

From the other kennels came the sound of quick movements; then other voices joined his, and the keening of the team rose and quivered in the icy stillness of the night, until sleepers in the little town that had hacked a place for itself in the bush rose on



## MAN-WISE

by SEWELL PEASLIE WRIGHT

Quesan, part dog and companion to man, part hard and merciless wolf could not change swiftly from one master to another. Larry had good reasons for hating wolves yet started out on an emergency trip by sled, with the big husky in the lead

their elbows, listening, and muttered in sympathy and understanding.

"That'll be Bob McLain's dogs. Poor little Iris! But it's God's blessing; Doc said he suffered . . ."

Of course, everyone in the little bush country town of Sakkasau Lake knew about Bob McLain. Bob had been a fur buyer, and on his last trip a big stub had fallen, swiftly and silently as is the way of stubs, and crushed him into the snow. He had dragged himself onto the toboggan, and the dogs had taken him home . . . to die.

And now Bob's dogs were mourning his passing. The back door of the house opened. A flood of yellow light poured into the darkness, losing its warmth on the blue-white snow. A man came out, closing the door quietly behind him.

"Quiet!" he said, not harshly, yet in a manner which commanded obedience. "Quiet, Quesan!"

The long wail died to a quivering sob in Quesan's corded throat. He walked toward this man, to the end of his chain, and stood there, looking up silently. The other dogs were quiet now, and stood watching.

Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius

The man stopped, close to Quesan, looking down at the dog through the darkness.

"Tough going, old-timer." Quesan could not understand the words, but the choked softness of the man's voice told him more than words could have conveyed. He whined softly, deep in his throat.

"I know. I know. Tough—tough going, Quesan. But keep quiet, boy. Keep quiet. Don't make it any harder . . . for her . . . and for me." He patted Quesan's head gently, with a hand that quivered, and stumbled back toward the house.

The door closed behind him, and Quesan crawled back into his kennel. Turning, he stretched himself at ng his muzzle upon his paws, across the

length, resting his muzzle upon his paws, across the threshold, his eyes fixed unwinkingly upon the lighted windows of the house.

Now and again, as the hours of the night went by, his throat twitched spasmodically, as though he would cry out, but he made no sound. He merely lay there, motionless, and watched the house of his master, who was dead . . .

QUESAN studied the two men as they approached, the snow whining crisply beneath their feet. One of them was the man who had spoken to him that night, the other was a stranger. They stopped before Quesan's kennel.

"This is the dog I was telling you about, Telford," said the man Quesan knew. "He was my brother's lead dog, and Bob knew dogs. He's a big brute—look at the shoulders on him. And he's got a head on him. He'll make you a real leader."

"He looks all there," nodded the man Telford. "Husky, isn't he? What's his name?"

"Quesan," said the brother of Quesan's master. "You bet he's a husky—see the wolf in his dewlaps and his eyes? But he's not ugly—he's not unfriendly."

"You never can tell about a husky," replied Telford. He held out a cautious hand toward the dog. "Hi, Quesan! How'd you like a new job?"

(Please turn to page 68)



Here is a total loss of crop due to a solid stand of sowthistle, but . . .

## What You Pay for Weeds!

Here is a carefully calculated estimate of the annual cost of weeds to prairie farmers. Would you believe it?

by H. E. WOOD



weeds can be controlled and a staggering annual loss minimized as in this Manitoba grain field.

ANADA'S weed problem traces back to pioneer days. Some weeds were native to this continent; others, many of which are now our most noxious and troublesome weeds were introduced. As the species multiplied and weeds slowly increased their competition against growing crops, farmers became concerned. They realized that weeds were exacting an ever increasing toll.

Until the coming of farm mechanization and chemicals, two of our foremost aids to weed control, they waged a losing battle against this common enemy. Estimates have been made from time to time of the toll weeds take. In this article I have attempted to appraise the loss due to weeds under present-day farming methods. The figures arrived at are, of course, estimates, but care has been taken to keep them conservative.

Rather than attempt to deal with the subject on a Canada-wide basis, it was thought best to confine discussion to the three prairie provinces—Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. There were at least two reasons for this: a familiarity with the problem over the more limited area; and the peculiar and complex problem weeds present within one of the world's most extensive, mechanized small-graingrowing areas.

Quite recently figures have appeared concerning the loss weeds are causing in the United States. In 1952, it was estimated that American farmers lost \$5 billion worth of crop to weeds. Of the total revenue from crops, this amounts to a 13 per cent loss. In general this loss occurred under a much more intensive system of farming than is followed throughout western Canada.

That weeds cause heavy losses elsewhere in Canada, where a much more intensive agriculture is followed than in the West, is borne out by a very pointed statement supplied on request by A. H. Martin, director, Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture. Mr. Martin states: "We have placed weed losses at \$4.65 per acre, or approximately 14 per cent of the field crop value. Of this 10 per cent is due to crop losses, 4 per cent to loss of quality, degrading, cost of cleaning, and so on. Ontario's annual weed losses exceed \$40,000,000."

Commenting on the toll weeds take in British-Columbia, Norman F. Putnam, field crops commissioner, states: "It is very difficult to make any definite appraisal of the losses sustained by farmers from weeds. I would put a conservative estimate on

the losses to field crops in this province of \$2,500,000. After consultation with our horticultural branch, we have estimated that the loss to that industry would be an additional \$1,000,000, making a total of \$3,500,000."

THE first and most apparent loss suffered through weeds is the deduction made for *dockage* (largely weed seeds), by the elevator agent at the time the grain is delivered to the elevator. While by no means the greatest toll taken by weeds, dockage has become the common yardstick by which we are accustomed to rate weed losses.

From the 42 million acres planted to cereals and flax in the three prairie provinces in 1953, there were 1,147,000,000 bushels harvested, nearly one billion of which will be delivered by the end of the crop year, July 31, 1954. The last report issued by the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada (1951-52 crop year) shows average dockage at almost exactly three per cent. Applying this figure to the billion bushels now being delivered, dockage would amount to 33,000,000 bushels. On the basis of 2,000 bushels per car, 55 cars per train, the transportation of these weed seeds requires exactly 300 trains!

Assuming that had there been no weeds, and therefore no dockage, there would have been an additional weight of grain, and the additional value of the grain crop would have amounted to \$34,000,000. Add to this, handling and freight charges of \$6,000,000 and we have a total loss traceable to dockage, of \$40,000,000. For the 248,000 farms in western Canada the average is \$160 per farm.

NEARLY all of us are all too familiar with the manner in which weeds compete with growing crops of all kinds. In the early summer of 1944,

#### The Cost of Prairie Weeds

Dockage Losses	\$ 40,000,000
Competition to Crops	166,000,000
Tillage Control Costs	35,000,000
Delayed Seeding Costs	4,000.000
Chemical Control Costs	10,000,000
Total Weed Toll	\$255,000,000
	The second section

Average Cost on 248,000 Farms-\$1,028

when "selective" spraying of field crops was being demonstrated by using Sinox, the forerunner of 2,4-D, Dr. P. J. Olson, University of Manitoba, made careful weed counts, previous to spraying a number of farm fields of grain. In one-yard square plots, wild mustard ranged from a low of 15 to a high of 820 plants, with 12 fields averaging 240 plants per square yard. Stinkweed reached a high of 800 plants; wild buckwheat, from a trace to 276 plants; lamb's quarters a high of 45 plants. I am sure very few of us could appreciate such numbers of weed seedlings in a single square yard, competing with a seeded crop of grain.

During 1952 and 1953, Vernon Burrows, of the Plant Science Division, University of Manitoba, conducted extensive trials, in which wheat and flax were grown in competition with wild mustard planted at various rates. The results of these trials show how weed competition can be very serious, even from one of the less noxious weeds. Compared with plots kept free of all weeds, the average yield loss on mustard-infested wheat plots was 7.5 bushels per acre—the difference between 22.5 and 15 bushels. Flax plots averaged a drop of 6.8 bushels per acre (11.8—5.0), and reached a peak loss of 12.7 bushels (13.8—1.1).

We can all think of a dozen or more weeds that are equally serious, or considerably more so than, wild mustard. To mention only a few: perennial sowthistle, Canada thistle, quack (couch) grass, Russian thistle, green foxtail (wild millet), stinkweed, the pig weeds, and the group of deep-rooted persistent perennials, leafy spurge, field bindweed, hoary cresses, Russian knapweed and toad flax. A number of these weeds—particularly the latter group—have become such problem weeds at times, as to cause farmers to abandon their holdings.

Wild oats merit special mention. During 1952, the writer made a survey of the distribution of, and the problem presented by, wild oats.

In the prairie provinces 67 million acres were devoted to crop or summerfallow—10 million acres in Manitoba, 36 million in Saskatchewan, and 21 million in Alberta. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan three out of every four acres were infested, and in Alberta two out of every three acres. Of the 49 million infested acres, 23 million—not far from half—were seriously infested; and the proportions in all provinces were quite similar.

How much, then, should we assess as loss against the many weed species (Please turn to page 64)



The lure of the country grows stronger in the spring.

EVERY year when springtime rolls around again, it brings with it nostalgic memories of my early years of married life—and the days when my husband and I made our first attempt to earn a living on a farm.

Of course, I realize now that we, softened from years of easy city living, had no business straying outside the confines of the city limits in the first place.

It was that first seed catalogue that did it!

Here we were, ensconced in a comfortable apartment in South Parkdale, in Toronto. We had every convenience that modern science could think up to hasten flabby muscles and to prevent oxygen from sneaking in unexpectedly. My husband's work was a mere 10 minutes' walk from our apartment, and his hours were from seven in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon. It was an ideal existence.

It is true that I hadn't been feeling well for a year or two, and the doctor had advised me to go out more, but I wasn't worried about myself, and my small daughter was thriving into a robust little dynamo of energy. She got plenty of fresh air and sunshine, by romping along Sunnyside Beach every day with the rest of the small fry of our neighborhood, under the watchful eye of a capable swimming instructor.

It was at this point in our lives that the seed catalogue intruded upon us. I remember taking it out of the mail box in the foyer, before I put the kettle on to boil for my husband's after-work snack.

Then, with the tea table set, the kettle simmering cheerily, and my small fry sleeping off her sunshine binge, I sat at the kitchen table and idly began to turn the pages of the seed catalogue, just to pass the time until my husband came home from work.

The little book was beautifully illustrated, I noticed immediately. The bright red tomatoes, glistening on the glossy pages, seemed to be bursting with tomato juice cocktail. What a wonderful source of vitamins, I mused!

Satiny-skinned onions, huge, kingsized potatoes and dark red beets, smooth and tempting, seemed to leap from the pages and simply beg to be eaten.

There were plump, salmon-fleshed melons, already cut in halves while still on the vine, waiting patiently for a large scoop of ice cream and a spoon.

At this point, I remember reaching for a serviette before perusing further.

I saw a whole page of crisp, firmlooking heads of nile-green lettuce, in long straight rows: their outside leaves so cool and crisp that even the hot orange glare of the sun beating down furiously upon their unprotected heads, did not appear to wilt them one iota.

There were scarlet radishes with rich, dark green tops, standing proudly on their clean, snow-white roots, just inviting me to munch them. Their flesh was guaranteed to be firm, white and crisp. The small printing under the picture also stated that their seed, after planting, would develop rapidly and be ready for eating in an incredibly short period of time.

My stimulated imagination painted a mental picture of me, in clean, ruffled gingham, gaily dropping radish seeds into the hospitable bosom of Mother Earth, and then leaping quickly out of the way of this luscious wonder vegetable as it popped and reared up from the ground.

I scanned more of the pages eagerly. The seed catalogue was no longer being regarded as an advertising pamphlet. How I could have entertained unkindly thoughts about it in the first

# Seed Catalogues are WONDERFUL!

And they are here again, too. Read what one did to a city family

by MARGUERITE M. TOLTL

place, I couldn't understand. This was a book of golden opportunity. My kettle boiled away unheeded. And by the time I heard the click of my husband's key in the front door of the apartment house, and his cheerful whistle as he came up the stairs, I was already an enthusiastic advocate of the Back-To-The-Country Movement.

Over our tea, we discussed conditions in general and the seed catalogue in particular. Our life was quite free and uncomplicated at that moment, we agreed, but we were not getting rich very fast—and we were not getting any younger. My husband, who was months older than I, was rapidly approaching his twenty-third birthday.

We had been married almost four whole years!

We decided, then and there, that it was high time for us to look around for an opportunity to invest our savings where they would grow—and grow fast!

That very evening, by some strange coincidence, a real estate salesman just happened to drop in for a friendly chat.

HAPPY CHARLIE, as he was known in the neighborhood, was a very friendly soul. He loved people. That was why, whenever he had a free evening, he would drop in for a friendly chat at any home in the vicinity, whether he knew the people or not. He assured us that his greatest joy in life was in helping others.

Then, catching a glimpse of our newly acquired seed catalogue, which I had been reviewing, he began to entertain us with real-life stories of the young couples that he had started on the road to health and wealth, by taking them out of stuffy apartments in a crowded city and transplanting them into a rose-covered cottage, surrounded by lush, green acres, under a beautiful star-studded sky.

"Come to think of it," Happy Charlie recalled suddenly. "I have a wonderful bargain listed right now... just came in today. A lovely white cottage, sitting on five acres of rich virgin land—and only a few miles from the city limits." He cautioned us, however, to tell no one of this. He didn't want a stampede of people out there, wanting to buy it. He loved this little

place and would only let it go to some young couple that deserved a lucky break.

Before the evening was over, we discovered another strange coincidence. A very encouraging one, I thought. It seemed to me like a joyful omen of a happy and prosperous time to come, because, quite by accident, Happy Charlie revealed the asking price of the down payment on this dream cottage. And, believe it or not—it was the exact amount of our bank balance!

We could scarcely believe our good fortune.

After our newly found friend departed, my husband and I sat up into the wee small hours, discussing the do's and don't's of this anticipated adventure.

It wasn't as though we were going into anything blindfolded, we told ourselves seriously. After all, hadn't I been brought up on a farm, until I was 12 years old?

The very thought of my early days on my father's farm gave me added confidence. As I recalled it, it seemed to me that I had done all the really necessary work on the entire place—in the short hours before and a ter school.

My husband, unfortunately, had never had the opportunity to glean my wealth of experience. Born and raised in New York City, his sole knowledge of the soil came to him quite by accident. He had been playing ball with other boys in an alley, between tenement buildings, when he accidentally batted the ball toward a window on the third floor. The ball struck a potted geranium on the window sill and knocked it crashing to the street.

My husband's mother, seeing the accident, rushed downstairs and ordered the young culprit to go down to the corner hardware store and buy a new pot, which he hastened to do. And then came his big farming development! With his mother standing over him, he was forced to scoop up the precious spilled soil with his own hands and set the flower safely in its new residence.

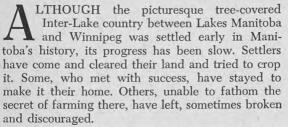
He was an immediate success. He knew which end of the plant went into the earth, because he had already seen the red flower exposed on the other

(Please turn to page 55)

## Pleasant Farming

The Ross family have carved a good farm living from Manitoba's Inter-Lake country. They find time to enjoy the hunting and fishing, and the pleasant atmosphere of the district, too

by DON BARON



One of those who stayed, and says he hasn't regretted it for a single day, is Jack Ross. He and his bride moved to their present farm, a few miles west of Eriksdale, in 1928.

He was born in Ireland, and nature endowed him well with the imagination and venturesome instinct so common to the people of his native land. His new farm presented a formidable challenge, with the task of clearing the bush from virgin land, and making a living on its light soil. Thirty acres of his first quarter-section were already cleared and ready for cropping when he moved in, and he soon bought an adjoining quarter, with 60 acres cleared. The job of clearing more began.

The farm has grown to a full section now. More than 300 acres have been cleared, much of it the past few years by the easy push of the powerful bulldozers that are common in the district. The drudgery of the early days is largely gone, but it is a good guess that it never was merely drudgery for Jack Ross. His buoyant enthusiasm for this game-filled land never leaves him. He has taken big crops from the fields; has hunted, fished, and picked wild

fruits; and has built a high-producing farm. His local pride can well be pardoned when he calls the Inter-Lake country a veritable "garden of Eden."

He harbors no envy for the deep and naturally fertile fields of the grain-growing prairies, for, he says, his own country offers a better life. The huge glowering head of a 17-pound "jack," or northern pike, nailed to the side of the shed, testifies to the kind of fish that rise to bait in nearby Lake Manitoba. He describes in glowing terms the number of deer that make it a picnic ground for ardent huntsmen in the fall. The full jam shelf in the pantry indicates that wild strawberries and raspberries and saskatoons and cranberries grow plump and juicy for the favored people who are there to enjoy them. A horticulturist friend of the Rosses visits them spring and summer, and walks the woods and fields in his search for the scarce wild plants that may sometimes be found in this lovely country. The ones he finds are carried away for further study, like precious treasures.

YET as well as possessing natural beauty, it is a country where Jack Ross has been able to carve a living from the land. His willingness to take a chance has stood him in good stead; and many of his farming methods have been developed right on his own farm.

At an earlier age, his determination became evident when he wanted a car and was without enough money. He paid \$5 down for one that was already well-shaken, and paid the remaining \$55 at \$5 per month.



They designed the poultry house themselves.

By 1934, when he was well-started farming, he decided that the way to make more money from his rocky fields was to apply commercial fertilizer. No one in the district was using fertilizer then, and he had no money of his own to pay for it. However, he went out on the limb again, bought the fertilizer, and promised to pay when his crop was harvested. He has been reaping dividends from this experiment ever since, by fertilizing every year and harvesting bigger crops.

He has always called fertilizer the real secret of farming success there, and further convinced himself of this in 1946. That year he bought a quarter-section adjoining his own, that came up for taxes. It was an unlikely looking piece of land, but he got it for \$150. He broke up a 20-acre field that was cleared and growing wild with weeds and grass. He put on 35 pounds of fertilizer to the acre and harvested more than 600 bushels of wheat, a whopping 30 bushels to the acre.

Certain now of what the land would do, he endured his wife's good-natured threats and plowed under another field that was yielding buckets of strawberries for the preserving jars and the dinner table. If the shallow soil had not yielded something worthwhile after such a sacrifice, his luck would have been ended indeed. That fall, Mrs. Ross was happy to admit that the crop of oats which ran 90 bushels to the acre, was a better bet than wild strawberries.

A CROSS the road that same summer, a neighbor seeded 156 acres of similar soil to oats and barley. His bumper harvest totalled over 12,000 bushels, and the oats ran 100 bushels to the acre.

"That is the kind of crop that will come from this soil, if it is fertilized," says Jack. Before he fertilized, he recalls, his crops grew up with rich green streaks and patches, but with too many spots where the grain grew weak and pale. "It is not like the rich, deep soil of the prairies, that will give heavy yields from natural fertility (Please turn to page 66)

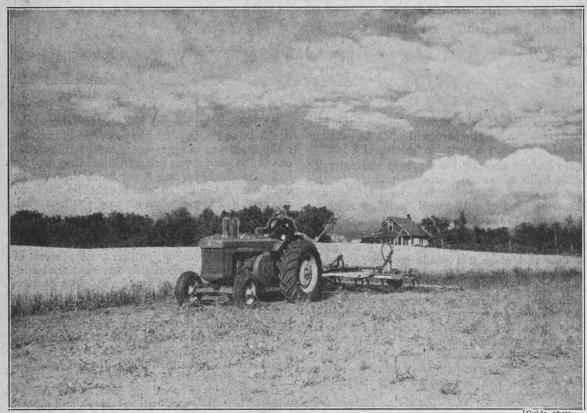


This quarter-section was purchased for \$150 taxes in 1946. Fred Ross is on the tractor

The good oat crop, which ran nearly 100 bushels to the acre; brings a smile to Jack Ross.



## Co-operative Cost-Cutting



[Guide photo

Walter Acaster working his summerfallow with one of the co-op tractors and flexible harrows.

If you would like to talk to farmers who are moderately enthusiastic about machinery co-ops, take a trip to North Battleford, and to the Mount Hope and the Round Hill districts a few miles north. The farmers there have had several years of experience with machinery sharing, and they will tell you it has much to recommend it.

If you considered only the number of members the co-ops now have, as compared with the number they once had you could readily conclude that they probably did not develop in the first place, out of any real need. Take the Round Hill Machinery Co-op: it used to have seven members, and all machinery was owned in common; now it is defunct, and all the former members own their own machinery. Consider the Mount Hope Machinery Co-op: it used to have 16 active members; now it has 7, and there is a fair likelihood, if good times continue, that it will go the way of its predecessor at Round Hill. Even if it doesn't, out of 23 original members there are now only 7 actively co-operating. One might well say that these machinery co-operatives have failed.

Such a statement, however, would be wrong. Membership in these co-ops has fallen away as the co-ops have fulfilled their function. There are farmers in these two districts who have paid for a full line of costly machinery, who would be in much poorer shape today, but for the lift they got from the co-op. It was their membership in the co-op that initially set them up.

Let's look at it this way. The ideal arrangement in the minds of most farmers, is a self-contained farm in which the farmer owns all his own machinery. This is pleasant and often efficient, but it is certainly costly. What could be more logical, therefore, than for a group of farmers of limited means to band together and buy their machinery in common, thereby reducing machinery and labor costs finally, working themselves into a positionaided by economies realized through their co-opwhere they can afford to buy their own outfits? When they arrive at this happy state, they withdraw from the co-op; and when most of the members can afford their own machinery, the co-op disbands. That is not to say that the co op has failed: on the contrary, it has been a decided success. It has not led to a bigger co-op, but it has led to bigger farms and more prosperous people.

This is exactly what happened in the case of the Round Hill Machinery Co-op. It started in 1944, with a total of seven members. Initially they owned a tractor and a tiller, but within three years this had been expanded to include a big 4-5 plow tractor, tiller, drill, plow, separator and cultivator. In addition, many of the members had some machinery of their own, as well as horses that would, on occasion, be used for field work at home.

A. Millar Craig was president for several years (see The Country Guide, November, 1953). The manager was C. Armistead, and the secretary, Hans Nadeborne. When the co-op began, the total of broken land on the seven farms was 1,500 acres.

Before important decisions were made, such as the purchase of extra machinery, all the members were called together and the matter fully discussed. The secretary, or manager, would come armed with all the salient facts—costs, value of machinery that could be traded in, and so on; and the decision would be reached on the basis of a simple majority vote.

There was never any trouble about whose place was worked first. If two men wanted the same machine at the same time, it was up to the president, secretary and manager to make the decision. There was never any conflict, even in threshing time, partly perhaps, because the effort was always made to start in the fall with the men who had been late the year before, and work back to those who had been threshed earlier. The members would all pitch in and help at threshing, the wages they earned being applied against their own threshing bills.

In the fall of 1949, five years after inauguration, the decision to fold up was reached. An auction sale was billed and the machinery sold. "A machinery co-op is a wonderful way for a group of farmers to really get ahead," one of the members told The Guide. "We sure didn't have much money invested in that machinery, compared with what we all have now, even on an investment per acre basis. When we arrived at the point where most of our members could afford their own machinery, and our boys were getting big enough so we didn't need so much neighbor's help, we just broke it up."

"A lot of people seem to think you can't disband a co-op without a lot of hard feelings," commented another ex-member. "That wasn't our experience here. The co-op had just done all that was needed Membership in these two machinery co-ops has slipped from twenty-three members down to seven, yet members agree the co-ops were successful

#### by RALPH HEDLIN

of it, and we figured we'd be better off alone. So we just went our own ways."

THE Mount Hope Machinery Co-op started up in 1945, one year after the start of the Round Hill enterprise to the north, and partly because the members had been impressed with the Round Hill experience. The situation was more or less made to order, as the three Keall brothers were already working together, to some extent, as were the three Acaster brothers.

When they organized in 1945, anyone was taken in at his own request. The idea at that time was chiefly to help out with the field work. Most of the men in the district were farming with horses, and not many felt they could afford to buy a line of power machinery. When the organizational work was completed, 16 members had joined the co-op. "I never thought it would work," Armand Keall

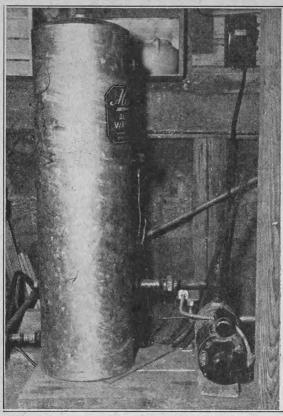
"I never thought it would work," Armand Keall told The Guide. "Farm people are pretty independent, and it struck me as mighty unlikely that so many of us would be able to get along together. I guess I was wrong. In the main it has worked out all right, and it's been a big help to us here."

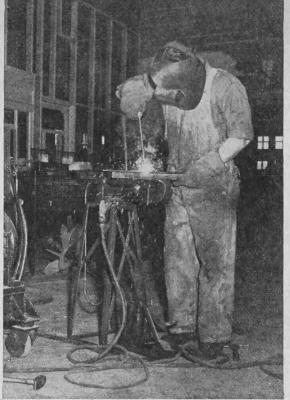
When the co-op began operations, in the spring of 1945, a member could have all, or part, of his broken land worked by the co-operatively owned machinery. The member indicated how many acres he proposed to have worked, and was then levied two dollars on each of these acres, to provide capital for the purchase of machinery. In the fall it became necessary to buy expensive harvest machinery, and it was decided to extend the levy to all cultivated acres on each farm, to provide the needed capital. It was also agreed that any member breaking additional land would have to pay this levy on his new fields. At this time, land broken on members' farms totalled 3,450 acres: the capital available, therefore, totalled \$6,900.

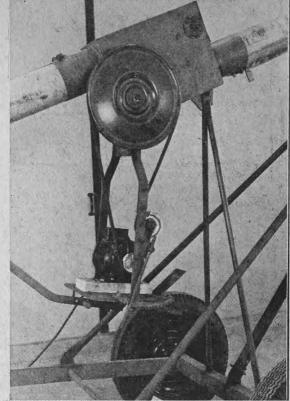
In the spring of 1947, a special meeting of all the members decided that the object of the co-op was not to do just part of the field work on member farms, but all of it. A tractor was available (machinery was scarce), and in the light of the decision to have all of their land worked by the co-op, they decided to buy the tractor, and make an additional levy of one dollar an acre, to buy the tractor and other needed machinery.

The total per-acre levy has now reached \$8.50, based on the acreage of the seven remaining members. With this money, the members have provided themselves with three tractors, two self-propelled combines, a swather, a power binder, a 28-inch threshing machine, a hydraulic hoist, a side-delivery rake, two one-way diskers, a duckfoot cultivator, a spike-tooth, heavy-duty cultivator and several sets of drag harrows. The co-op used to have land breaking equipment, but this has been sold, because it was decided that with the reduced membership breaking took up too much of the remaining members' time.

Each machine has a fixed charge to meet costs and depreciation against it. The charge last fall for combining with the 15-foot s.p. combine was \$8 per hour. Tractors cost the users \$3.15 for a large one and \$2.90 for a smaller one; the cultivator cost 70 cents per hour, including a set of harrows behind; the 15-foot disker, with tractor and packer, ran to \$4.75 per hour, and the harrows and small tractor cost \$3.20 per hour. (Please turn to page 63)







Hot water at the flick of a switch.

Welding equipment in the shop for free afternoons.

A grain auger saves heavy lifting.

## Planned Electrification Costs Less

Farm electrification will go a long way toward bringing town conveniences to the farm, but planned purchases of equipment will make for easier financing

by M. E. DODDS

ORE and more everyday farmers are bringing the conveniences of urban living to their farms, by the installation and use of electrical power. Five or ten years ago this development was practically impossible, because of the limited range of rural power lines.

Many farmers and ranchers pioneered with individual gasoline and wind-electric plants, and have had a taste of the service that can be given by electricity. Due to the expansion program into rural areas that has been initiated by the utility companies and public agencies, electricity on the farm will have a very marked effect on the mode of living of the farm population. There is less need to move to town, when it is possible to have all the conveniences of the city dweller, plus all the labor-saving devices that can be put to work to improve or increase farm production.

The 300 or more electrical appliances that are on the market today, may be naturally divided into two classes: equipment for production, and equipment for living. Some of this equipment is applicable to farm use, while other items are not—but a careful selection of the more useful ones can contribute to farm living in general, and in addition, make electricity pay its own way as part of the farming business.

Financing an electrification setup is an important consideration. It is not the intention here to discuss the costs of having power brought to the farm, but rather, the program of electrical use within the building area. The type of electrical equipment purchased, and the order in which these appliances are bought, can have a decided effect on the success of electricity in anyone's farming operation.

One point that cannot be stressed too much is the importance of installing adequate wiring throughout the entire farm distribution system. Future loads are difficult to predict, but as the individual expands his operations, he will find that power can be used in a multitude of ways in the home, the workshop, the poultry house, and in the beef or dairy cattle barn. The initial cost of adequate wiring may seem high, but it is not nearly as expensive as a re-wiring job at some later date. The right type of wiring is just as important as adequate wiring for such places as barns, dairies and piggeries, where damp or acid conditions may be encountered.

THE first demand on farm electricity is for lighting in the home, and in the service building. Lighting provides a convenience that cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but constitutes a necessity in home life and for work. Thus the primary purpose in bringing electricity to the farm is accomplished.

The farm home is the center of all business and social activity, and the appliances available for domestic use provide both convenience and luxury. The housewife, in her busy routine, will find that many pieces of kitchen and household equipment will make her day easier. Some of these appliances can be placed in the category of production equipment, since they contribute to the labor income, by providing extra time to do other small jobs that have been previously, but not intentionally, neglected. Other appliances useful in the household contribute directly to the cash income, or savings.

The production type of electrical appliances are the ones that make electricity pay its way. The equipment that is most useful is fundamentally of the labor-saving kind and renders its service by relieving the farmer of time-consuming chores, thus releasing labor for other jobs that contribute to income. These jobs could be enlargement of present projects, or the taking on of new ones with the assurance that they can be operated by mechanical means to produce better results.



A deep freeze in the home makes it much simpler for the housewife to plan meals well in advance.

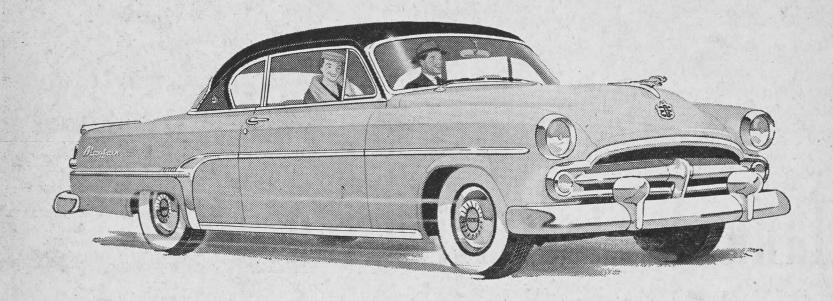
It is a natural desire to have as many jobs as possible done by electricity, but the investment in electrical appliances can amount to a considerable sum. The problem then, is how to finance the modernization of the farm home, and the application of electricity to farming operations.

Electricity can be made to pay its own way by a careful selection of appliances. Some equipment contributes to the labor income, by relieving labor to do income-producing jobs. Any new projects taken on because of the availability of electricity should contribute to cash income. Appliances for such purposes are the ones that pay for the use of other electrical equipment that falls into the category of luxury items; and they help to produce a profit on the over-all use of electricity on the farm. The type of agriculture already practised on an individual farm will influence the kind of equipment to be purchased; and new enterprises will dictate the secondary choice of appliances. It is advisable, then, to study the requirements of electrical use and to determine the direction the expansion will take, before going into a wholesale purchase of electrical equipment.

THIS means the development of a farm electrification purchase program. It is not likely that the farmer will buy all his equipment at once. Nevertheless, now that electricity is available, it is important to put it to (*Please turn to page 57*)

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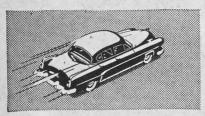
Feel the Dodge ride—more level, smoother, softer—a real fine-car luxury ride. Your Dodge hugs the road, takes curves in its stride. Then note the full, clear vision all round—the better close-in view over the low hood. Look at the quality of Dodge upholstery—fine fabrics and soft leather-grained vinyl—beautiful two-tone shades to harmonize with new body colours. And feel the comfort of Dodge chair-high seats—there's full support under your knees and behind your hips and shoulders.

You'll feel <u>safer</u> in a Dodge, too. There's a lower centre of gravity for stability—clear, safe vision with constant-speed electric windshield wipers—Safety Rim Wheels—independent parking brake—dual-cylinder front-wheel brakes for safe stops.

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You have effortless parking and steering. All driving becomes easier and safer, with Dodge Full Power Steering, now available on all Dodge models at moderate cost.

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#### NEWS OF AGRICULTURE



[Can. Dept. Agr. photo

This group of Ontario farmers from Oxford County are examining loose housing barns and grass silage feeding at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

#### Britains Are Eating Better

BY comparison with the strict rationing of the war and immediate postwar years, the British people are gradually eating a little higher up on the hog. Last year, though still below prewar average in meat consumption, they managed 80 pounds per person, or 11.5 pounds more than in 1952. The prewar average was 98 pounds.

Consumption of ham and bacon which are calculated separately, were, at 26 pounds per capita, only two pounds below the prewar average.

The British people used 18 pounds of margarine per person, or twice as much as the prewar average, but only 13½ pounds of butter compared with 24 pounds before the war.

Cheese consumption was not only up over 1952, but somewhat higher than the prewar average, and averaged 9.5 pounds which compares with about five pounds per capita in Canada.

#### How Farmers Meet Low Prices

FARM prices in the United States have dropped 17 per cent in two years. How have U.S. farmers met this condition which was aggravated by a drought over a very large area of the South? A survey of five counties in Missouri, involving some 500 families, will recall for many prairie farmers what farm families do without when times get tougher. From 4 to 26 per cent of these families had done without needed medical attention, the percentage varying with the relative prosperity in the five sections of the state which these five counties represented. From 20 to 60 per cent were trying to cut food costs. Forty-one per cent over-all eliminated planned vacation trips last year. From three to seven per cent gave up plans to have their children finish high school and the same number gave up plans for sending children to college. Nine per cent of the women gave up the purchase of a washing machine; 20 per cent, a home freezer; 14 per cent, a television set; 22 per cent, furniture or rugs; 5 per cent, a refrigerator. Four per cent delayed purchase of an inexpensive item such as an iron, and three per cent could not get a bicycle for the children. Sixteen per cent of the families gave up the idea of a new car.

In North Carolina the State College reported that a majority of farmers were trying to increase output as a means of keeping net income up.

In New York State, where only four per cent of the total population are farm people, non-farm incomes have not been cut and farm income has been maintained reasonably well.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that generally farm housewives will put up more canned goods and do more home baking; the family will take fewer trips to the movies; the farmer himself will get his blue jeans patched for another year; the barn door will continue to sag and the farm machinery will get repairs instead of replacements.

#### Sask. Survey Of Electrification

RECENTLY the Saskatchewan Power Corporation surveyed representative farms throughout the province which had been electrified and which represented most municipalities.

Of the 3,500 farms represented, 97.5 per cent were engaged in grain growing to some extent; 74.7 per cent raised some livestock; 54 per cent some poultry; 47 per cent were in dairying to some extent; and 4 per cent grew market garden crops.

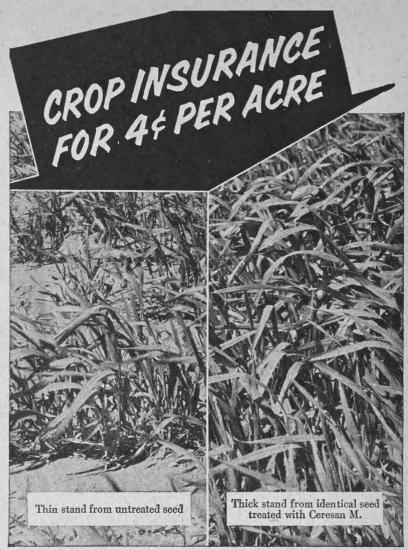
Of the entire group, 74 per cent had refrigerators; 34 per cent had installed water systems; 28 per cent were using electric ranges; 22 per cent had their own deep freeze units; and 19 per cent had water heaters in the house.

Outside the house 59 per cent were using some electrical shop tools; 45 per cent were pumping water for livestock with electricity; and 22 per cent were brooding chicks with electricity. V

### **Butter Consumption Dropping**

THE annual meeting of the Canation in Toronto recently was told that average butter consumption per annum might be as low as four pounds per person in the United States by 1974. This came from R. H. Rumler, recently appointed secretary of the Holstein Association of America, Brattleboro, Vermont.

He said that consumers are swinging to higher protein diets and avoiding fats and carbohydrates. As a result, a drop has occurred in the consumption of fats and an increase in the consumption of solids not fat. Whereas



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#### Top Yields of Clean Grain

#### YOU CAN SEE THE DIFFERENCE!

Good weather or bad, "Ceresan" M guards every kernel you plant against seed rot, and protects the young sprouts from seedling blight. That's why you'll see thicker, stronger stands that promise top yield—often up to seven extra bushels per acre.

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"Ceresan" M seed disinfectant gives every kernel a protective coat that kills disease spores on the seed. In addition, "Ceresan" M slowly releases a disease-killing vapor that spreads throughout bag or bin. The distinctive smell of "Ceresan" M on seed tells you that "Ceresan" M is at work disinfecting your seed for bigger yields and higher grades.

#### RECORD OF SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

For over 19 years "Ceresan" M has been giving superior disease protection to seed grain. Agricultural tests year after year affirm its superior effectiveness as a seed disinfectant for grain crops in Western Canada.

You have a large investment of labour, tillage in your grain crop. Each 4¢. worth of "Ceresan" M per acre at seeding time will assure you of an acre of top yielding, high quality grain. Protect your investment—

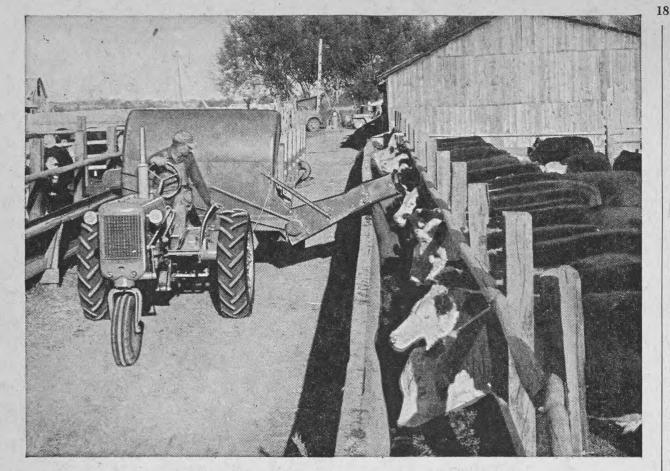
## TREAT YOUR GRAIN WITH "CERESAN" M

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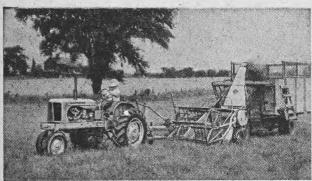
### Bringing Pasture to the Cattle

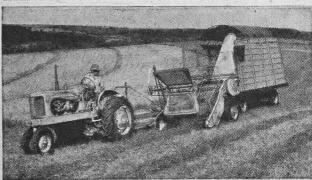
#### A Green Banquet the Year 'Round

Wide interest has arisen in a new system of "mechanized grazing." Legume or grass pasture is field-chopped and brought to the cattle. It can be fed either fresh-cut daily, or ensiled for year 'round feeding.

Herd owners who have tried it say pasture produces more tonnage when harvested at the right time . . . by machine.

There is neither hoof damage nor over-grazing. Weeds are controlled. Cattle are kept quiet, no longer have to hunt for feed.





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With your own big-capacity Allis-Chalmers Forage Harvester, you are equipped for this and other money-making methods of livestock feeding. You can field-cut silage crops when they're exactly right . . . blossom perfect!

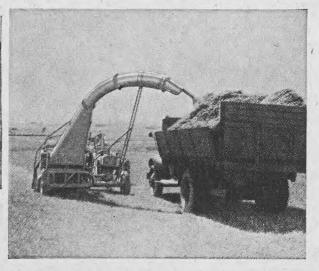
New Slide-Lock attachments readily interchange for almost any forage crop. Be ready when crops reach their protein peak. Field-cut them fast with minimum power . . . Allis-Chalmers style!

#### **NEW! EASY-CHANGE**

#### "Slide-Lock" ATTACHMENTS

New "SLIDE-LOCK" mounting principle permits easy interchange of grass and row-crop attachments. Windrow pickup attaches and detaches in minutes.

Save hours of labor the Allis-Chalmers way — harvest grass or corn silage; clip pastures; chop hay, straw or stalks.



New Side or Rear Delivery Attachment for use where trucks are the principal hauling units — is now or soon will be available at your Allis-Chalmers dealer's as a special equipment extra.

#### NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

butter consumption was decreasing, the consumption of whole milk, cheese, dry milk, ice cream and cottage cheese was on the way up.

Breeders, therefore, could no longer use butterfat production as a yardstick in breeding programs. Mr. Rumler was reported to have said that the dairy industry must learn to live with these changing conditions. Populations were increasing and therefore increased demands for food products were inevitable. Appetites might change but they would not decrease. V

#### "Co-operation" In Red China

RECENT reports from Hong Kong indicate that Red China is making every effort to develop socialized agriculture among the great masses of peasants. The latter are being urged to give up the private, small-scale farming they are used to and are being encouraged to "socialize" by the argument that the remolding of agriculture to socialism means that they will be remunerated according to labor and not that they will be forced to eat from the same pot.

Propaganda is thorough and in-

Propaganda is thorough and intense. Posters, photographs, statistical charts are used to lecture the peasants on how much they can gain under socialism and "how much faster China can industrialize if they sell their grain to the State." The young are being used to persuade the elders of the family, and the peasants are being taken to the cities to look at the factories which their grain can produce.

Production co-operatives are being encouraged, not only to use tools, live-stock and labor co-operatively, but to pool their land as well. There are said to be about 14,000 producer co-operatives in existence, but the Communist party is reported to have decided last December to expand the total to more than 55,000 this year and to 800,000 by 1957.

Other reports from Hong Kong indicate that food is in considerable shortage, especially in the interior of China. The harvest of 1953 is believed to have been less than that of 1952. Reports suggest that inferior grades of rice are being sold in the country districts and that cooking oil used everywhere is in short supply.

China, which imported grains before the war, must rely on substantial exports of grain to make payments for the imported industrial equipment arranged from Russia.

#### Seaweed For Poultry Feed

A T the experimental farm, Nappan, Nova Scotia, experiments have been conducted with seaweed as a substitute for animal feeds and fertilizers. The National Research Council reports that ground kelp may be incorporated up to 10 per cent in the feed of growing chicks and laying hens. It can be used as a substitute for ground oats or as an addition to a balanced ration if soybean meal is used to balance the protein.

The National Research Council report said that no adverse effect has been noted on mortality, egg produc-

tion, strength of shell, hatchability or body weight. For feeding bacon hogs, it is reported that seaweed meal may form up to six per cent of the ration from 40 pounds to marketing weight.

The Council has a maritime regional laboratory at Halifax and has found that between 40 and 50 per cent of dried seaweed is carbohydrate. Because these carbohydrates contain a large amount of polysaccharides found only in seaweeds, the Council concludes that "seaweed meal thus seems to present possibilities as a cheap supplementary feed for farm animals and also as a combined soil conditioner and fertilizer.

#### Soviet Farming Has Troubles

WHILE the complete facts about Soviet agriculture are not published, and even when Moscow reports are issued, they frequently fail to jibe with each other, certain broad conclusions can be reached by comparing analyses which bear the stamp of greatest care and reliability.

One such report recently says that the Soviet Union, needing more food for its growing population, will put more than 20 million acres of additional land under cultivation within the next few years, mainly in the Volga Valley, the Urals, Siberia, and Kazakhstan. It will be achieved through the establishment of new state farms, organized, owned and operated by the government. These will be different from the collective farms which, normally at least, are owned by the peasant members.

Any new land available for cultivated crops in Soviet Russia is more or less marginal and inferior in quality. A previous effort in the early Thirties along the same lines was made on the chestnut soils of the dry-farming steppe regions of Russia, but this land was largely converted to grazing areas within a few years.

It is also reported that more than a million technical-aid-trained Soviet farmers have been transferred from collective farms to the staffs of the state-owned tractor and agricultural machinery stations. They now become state wage earners instead of nominally independent collective farm members. This move in the direction of industrializing Soviet farming follows a program of Malenkov and Khrushchev to lift Russian agriculture to a plain of higher efficiency.

Partly by this means the staffs of the machinery and tractor stations have been increased by 1,400,000 during the last year. Of these, about 100,000 were agronomists and livestock experts, about 11,000 engineers and 10,500 machinery technicians, all of whom have been transferred from the Russian cities to the tractor stations. Those transferred from collective farms were foremen of tractor brigades, tractor drivers, excavator operators, mechanics and accountants.

The machinery and tractor stations are run by the government and own and operate all of the heavy farm machinery including tractors, combines and excavators. There are 9,000 of these stations and each one serves about ten collective farms, doing the plowing, sowing, harvesting and hauling under contract.

In return for this work, the tractor stations act as collectors for the government's share of the crop which amounts to more than 50 per cent. Thus, the strengthening of tractor stations also strengthens the strong arm of the government in each area.

Last year Khrushchev exposed the faulty statistics which had been published for years about Soviet agriculture and pointed out, among other things, that the Soviet Union had 3.5 million fewer cows at the beginning of last year than at the beginning of 1941 and 8.9 million fewer than in 1928, just before the farms were collectivized. Another report now seems to indicate that the Soviet Central Statistical Administration has paid little attention to Mr. Khrushchev and continues to offer rosy pictures to the public. It has reported that the number of cows was increased by 1.7 million in the first ten months of 1953 and

that the total number of horned cattle increased during the same period from 56.6 million to 63 million. Even more striking is the statement that the number of pigs increased from 28.5 million to 47.6 million last year, despite the fact that the Khrushchev target for the end of 1954 was only 54.4 million pigs.

Russian grain figures have always been based on an estimate of the standing crop rather than the harvested grain, which boosted the statistics by about some 20 per cent. Malenkov severely criticized this practice before the Supreme Soviet and now, for the first time in years, grain production figures are not even given in the form of percentages. It is believed by commentators that Malenkov was obeyed, but the discrepancy revealed was so great that the government dared not say more than that the actual harvest of grain crops in 1953 was close to the actual harvest

#### Get It At a Glance

Notes about agriculture and food production in Canada and other countries

British Columbia, for the year ended June 30, 1953, used more fertilizer than did Manitoba and almost as much as either Saskatchewan or Alberta, despite her very small amount of cultivated land. All four western provinces used only slightly more than did the Province of Quebec alone, and only about one-third as much as was used in Ontario. Incidentally, the three small Maritime Provinces used more fertilizer than did the four western provinces or the province of Quebec.

Reindeer shipped from Norway are expected to provide a new source of meat for Greenland. One hundred and fifty reindeer supplied in the autumn of 1952 are expected to increase to 10,000 within ten years.

In the Netherlands pig breeding and rearing are confined for the most part to the sandy mixed farming areas and only two breeds are kept. These are the Dutch Landrace and the Dutch Large White. The former is predominant over a larger area but the Large White is kept mainly in the western provinces where the large centers of population exist.

British agricultural production is now 152 per cent of pre-war production, according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The United Nations has issued a stamp commemorative of the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Issued in three-cent and eightcent denominations, the stamps went on sale February 11 and show a head of wheat which is carried in green and gold on the three-cent stamp and in blue and gold on the eight-cent stamp.

In West Kerry, Ireland, growers of onions dumped tons of a 1953 record crop into the sea. Farmer and Stock-Breeder reported that very large quantities of foreign onions were on the market between October and Christmas which is the best period normally for sales of the home product.

Dairy cows and heifers for milk in eastern Canada numbered 2,965,000 on December 1 as compared with 1,080,000 in the four western provinces.

The United States Farm Credit Administration is composed of 1,100 national farm loan associations, 499 productive credit associations, 12 Federal land banks, 12 Federal intermediate credit banks, 12 production credit corporations, and 13 banks for cooperatives. Farmers have \$180 million invested in the system, which has reserves totalling \$527 million, and lent farmers and their co-operatives, \$2.3 billion during 1953. An independent agency of the government, it is administered by the 13-member Federal Farm Credit Board.

Ice cream consumption in Canada now is nearly 400 per cent greater than that of 15 years ago and in 1953 amounted to 230 million pints or 98 cones for every man, woman and child in the country.

The United States is reported to have about 40 per cent of total world income, a proportionate increase of more than 50 per cent since 1938. Average per capita income in 1948 was \$1,525. Other countries in order were Switzerland, \$950; New Zealand, \$933; Canada, \$895; Australia, \$812; Sweden, \$805; Denmark, \$781; Great Britain, \$777; Norway, \$550; France, \$418; Germany, \$336; Italy, \$225; Soviet Russia, \$181.

Swedish cattle are now entirely free of contagious abortion, and bovine tuberculosis has been so nearly wiped out that the few remaining reactors are expected to be eliminated by the end of this year.

A joint report of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization is referred to by I.F.A.P. The report says

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UNIVERSAL LOADER, Farmhand's latest multi-purpose tool, fits both wide-front and row-crop tractors. Low, rugged frame lets you load up to 2,500 lbs. inside barns and sheds! High ground clearance makes field work easy! Attachments include 14 cu, ft. Manure Bucket and Gravel Plate, Detachable Scoop; Hay Basket and Push-Off available soon.



HIGH LIFT—12 ft. to heel of bucket lets Universal pile a full, even load on trucks and spreaders from one side! You raise, lower, dump load from the tractor seat. Loading spreaders becomes a speedy, one-man operation that saves you time and money!



and 6-ton models — serves as Spreader, Forage Unit, Mixer-Feeder and Bulk-Hauler. Unloading is automatic from P.T.O. Power Box works the year 'round, replaces 4 single-purpose machines. Attachments are quickly fitted and removed . . . saving you costly man-hours on every job!

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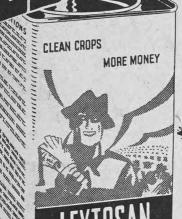
#### NEWS OF AGRICULTURE

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Remember, there is no substitute for Leytosan mercurial powder in giving your seed the best chance possible by controlling soil-borne diseases efficiently and economically.

In wire-worm areas use the dual treatment Leytosan G-91 to control wire-worm and smut. Don't be satisfied to control wire-worm only.

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that prices of basic crops in Western Europe have far out-distanced livestock prices, and suggests that this means the end of the shortage of meat animals which made beef, pork, milk and eggs much more expensive than potatoes or grain in the immediate post-war period.

Canadian consumption of evaporated milk at 18.5 pounds per capita is larger than in any other country in the world.

Farmers in Thailand who actually till the soil themselves, own 87 per cent of all the farm land in that country, according to a United Nations expert.

Ontario potato producers are complaining that the federal government, by putting a floor price of 50 cents a bushel or 62½ cents per bag under maritime potatoes, have subsidized the maritime growers at the expense of Ontario growers, who have no large-scale co-operative marketing organization through whom they can obtain a similar floor price.

An Australian wool official estimates that Australia can nearly double its sheep population, if pastures are sufficiently improved. She could increase the number of sheep from 120 million to 200 million or more.

Nelson Young, Director Production Service, Canada Department of Agriculture, died on February 2 after a short illness, in his 57th year. Born in Manitoba, he served overseas in World War I, was graduated from the University of Manitoba after the war, and joined the staff of the Dominion Seed Branch in 1921. He was widely known in western Canada, having served at Winnipeg and Saskatoon until transferred to Ottawa in 1935. V

Dutch wheat yields are very high and the average for 1952 was about 66 bushels per acre. In the same year the average milk yield per cow was about 8,300 pounds.

The U.N. Technical Assistance Program should be doubled within five years. This recommendation has been made by the International Development Advisory Board to the Foreign Operations Administration of the United States. The total budget for this purpose after five years should be about \$42 million, of which the United States should pay not more than 50 per cent.

There are over 1,300 Raiffeisen or farmers' credit banks in the Netherlands today. These rural banks are exceedingly well known in Europe and the first one was established in the Netherlands in 1896. Almost all are members of one of two central banks which act as clearing houses and between them serve individual members totalling 88,000.

The organization for European Economic Co-operation is said to have begun talks between interested countries with a view to setting up something like a world commodity credit co-operation for wheat, coarse grains and perhaps other agricultural commodities. No definite results have been reported, but an international

pool of foodstuffs or buffer stocks for needy countries is in mind.

Farmers in the north of Ireland met recently in Belfast to the number of more than 2,000 to insist on absolute price parity with the rest of Britain. Northern Ireland exports about £45 million worth of produce a year to Britain.

Canadian annual butter consumption has fallen nearly 45 million pounds since margarine was introduced five years ago, says the National Dairy Council of Canada. In the meantime, per capita butter consumption has declined 23 per cent during the same period. The council says that creamery butter production last year jumped 21 million pounds over 1952, and estimates that by May 1, the beginning of the heavy 1954 production season, butter stocks largely held by the federal government, will be 35 million pounds in excess of domestic needs. V

#### Addition to Our Family

THE COUNTRY GUIDE takes this somewhat belated opportunity of welcoming into our family a sister publication, Canadian Cattlemen. Publishing families often grow by adoption, rather than by internal growth; and the Canadian Cattlemen was already of public-school-leaving age when it was acquired from Mr. Kenneth Coppock, former secretary of the Western Stock Growers' Association, Calgary, on January 1 of this year.

During all of its lifetime Canadian Cattlemen has been the official organ of the Western Stock Growers' Association; and it will continue to enjoy the distinction of serving the members of a beef producers' organization that recently achieved its 58th birthday.

Our new publication will serve the beef industry of the four western provinces. The fact that both publications are owned by some 50,000 western farmers will be a guarantee that Canadian Cattlemen will be edited and published, as The Country Guide has always been edited and published, in the interests of agriculture. Crop production has always been the dominant branch of agriculture in the western provinces, but livestock, and especially beef animals, occupy a unique and valuable place whereever a permanent agriculture exists, or is in process of development. For this reason, too, The Country Guide welcomes Canadian Cattlemen into the family.

The editorial offices of the new publication will remain in Calgary, and editorial communications should be addressed to: The Editor, Canadian Cattlemen, 940-10th Avenue West, Calgary, Alberta.

The business offices have been transferred to Winnipeg, where all correspondence relating to circulation, advertising, printing and publishing, should be directed to: Canadian Cattlemen, Public Press Building, 290 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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#### Lambing Without Loss

This Manitoba sheepman separates gladioli bulbs during his all night watch of the flock at lambing season. This winter he saved every lamb

JOHN STRACHAN at Carman, Manitoba, says the secret of a good lamb crop is to flush the ewes with a good lush forage crop in the fall, just before breeding season. Mr. Strachan looks after his son Alf's good flock of Suffolks at lambing time now, but for long years he was one of Manitoba's well-known breeders of livestock. This winter, 19 ewes in the flock dropped 31 lambs, and not a single one was lost. With such results, flushing apparently is pretty important, but there is more to successful lambing than that.

John Strachan is a gladioli grower, too, and though at first glance flowers don't seem to go along with sheep, there is a lot of work in separating the bulbs before planting. Its a job that can be done day or night, and at lambing season, which takes a month, he works on the bulbs at night.

Then, every couple of hours, he makes a tour of the ewe flock, to be on hand if any assistance is needed. If a ewe is lambing, he stays to watch her through, to dry off the newborn youngster, and see that it gets an early feed, or if it is weak, a little brandy to get it going.

Since the Strachan flock lambs in the cold of January, a stove is kept in the lambing pen to take the chill out of the air. Ewes are fed roots during the winter, so they will milk well for the hungry lambs; and the lambs themselves are creep-fed from the time they are three weeks old. Rolled oats, with a protein supplement added, does the job here until the fast-growing lambs finally get onto good pasture. At three weeks of age, the tails are clipped.

Since the eyes of young lambs are very sensitive, and are liable to become infected if they don't get enough



Plenty of succulent roots keep the ewes milking before pasture is ready. These healthy lambs are thriving under the good care they receive in early weeks.

light, lambs are started in the pens with the most window space. The first sign of sore eyes brings out the boric acid, and the eyes are bathed. Although the lambing pens are smaller, but warmer, the lambs and ewes go into the open shed after a few weeks. It is cool but dry, and will carry them till they get out to pasture. This winter, Mr. Strachan fed cod liver oil to the lambs every few days, as an extra tonic expected to pay off with even healthier, faster-growing lambs.

It seems that the real secret of the Strachan success with sheep, is the careful attention to every detail of good care. Though Mr. Strachan is well up in his seventies, he has no lack of energy, and it is well placed in starting healthy lambs.



A stove in the lambing pen takes the chill out of the winter air, and Mr. Strachan is always on hand to see that new-born lambs get an early nurse.



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#### LIVESTOCK

### **Dairy Revolution Coming**

MANITOBA'S dairy farmers were told at their annual meeting that a revolution is fast approaching in their industry. B. G. Perkins, of the Doane Agricultural Service Incorporated, St. Louis, Mo., said that dairy farmers need new barns-to cut labor requirements and reduce capital investment. He told the meeting, for instance, that many dairymen in the United States are putting in 100 to 200 man - hours per cow per year, whereas methods have been developed to cut man - hours to fewer than 60. Many present methods, he suggested, are outmoded. An example can be seen in the haying methods used on some farms. Hay is cut and left on the ground, raked and, if a baler is used, run through the baler and dropped back onto the ground. Next it is loaded and hauled to the barn. There it is handled again, by hoisting it to the loft by hand or elevator. There, someone takes it again, to pile the bales in an orderly way, until, finally, these must be dragged to the chute, untied, and carried to the mangers.

Mr. Perkins suggested that by the time the cattle were finally fed and looked after, they were treated like hospital patients. They were tied up by the head, feed, water and bedding brought to them, and the manure and waste carried away again.

A man with a thirty-cow herd was said to lift over two million pounds of material per year. "No wonder we need improvement in efficiency," he said.

Loafing barns, with five separate areas, can supply the answer to this need, it was suggested. At the feeding area, cows can eat directly from the storage. Bedding can be stored at ground level, adjacent to the loafing area of the barn. A milking parlor allows the cows to bring their milk to the milking machine, and from there it goes directly from cow to cooler. The cleaning lot, preferably paved, must be well-drained, and easily accessible to the tractor and scraper. Finally, the young stock can be housed near the feed and bedding, so they require little extra work.

Cost of equipping for this system was said to be low, compared with the old stanchion stables. It means more silage, but the cattle can eat right from the horizontal silos. It has been found that cattle will speed up their own eating, to get enough grain in the three or four minutes they are in the parlor. A few Manitoba farmers who have tried out the loafing pen principle in a climate which is admittedly more severe than that in which Mr. Perkins has worked, testified that it worked satisfactorily for them. V

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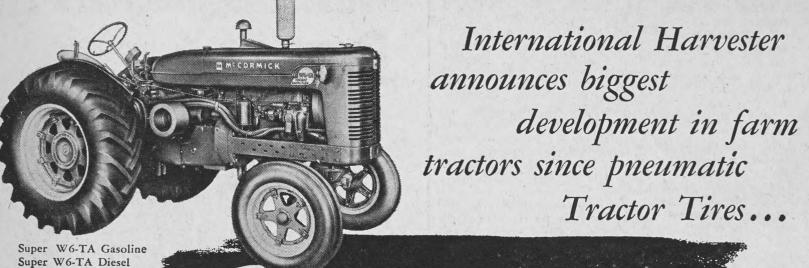
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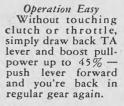
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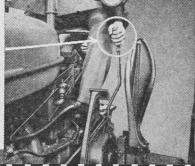
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says the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, Saskatchewan.

A partition three feet high, nailed across the corner of the pen eight inches from the floor, and with each end four feet from the corner, makes an adequate brooder. Then, with a 250-watt infra-red heat lamp hung in the center of the brooder, the pigs will be kept safe and warm. Young pigs are attracted by both light and heat, and after being placed in the brooder once or twice, they will return after each nursing, to lie in the warmth of the lamp.

The lamp must be kept far enough away from woodwork or bedding to prevent any danger of fire, and is usually started with the bulb from 20 to 24 inches above the floor. It is then raised a little each day, or about three inches per week, to harden off the little pigs as they grow. Too much heat results in soft pigs that are more susceptible to chills and disease. Two weeks is usually long enough to use the lamps, but in cold weather an extra week may be helpful. Temperature in the farrowing house should be maintained above zero, even if that means using a stove or furnace.

#### Grain Inadequate For Swine

DR. J. P. BOWLAND, of the University of Alberta, says there is no doubt that swine now being fed antibiotics, are growing faster than those fed on the rations of a few years ago. But he points out that if hogs are growing faster than formerly, certain nutrients which were formerly adequate in the ration may no longer meet requirements.

For instance, hogs require minerals in their rations; and cereal grains, on which our swine rations are based, are deficient in calcium and common salt. Since much of Canada is an iodinedeficient area, iodized salt and calcium are needed in most rations. Yet, not all swine producers add these to their feed. Although commercial rations do include them, many letters from farmers who mix their own rations, tell of the birth of hairless, and crippled pigs, and other similar ailments, caused by mineral deficiency.

This is only an example, for protein and vitamins are also required to supplement farm grains in swine rations today. To see how important these really are, the University of Alberta carried on feeding trials prior to 1949. One group of sows was fed a simple ration of 98 pounds equal parts oats and barley, plus a pound of ground limestone and a pound of iodized salt. These sows were not allowed on pasture, and weaned an average of only 4.6 pigs per litter. The other group of sows, fed the same grain, supplemented with minerals, feeding oil, protein and pasture, weaned an average of 8.2 pigs per litter.

The net return from the well-fed sows during 31/2 years, was four times that from an equal number of sows fed the unbalanced ration.

#### Weapons Against **Insect Thieves**

Insecticides are effective, but because many of them are poisonous, they must be used with caution

LIVESTOCK men a few years from now, may inject insecticides right into the animal to control internal pests such as warble grubs, or blood-sucking insects like lice and the hornfly, predicted R. H. Painter, federal western insect liaison officer, Lethbridge, Alberta, recently. Or, he continued, strains of animals resistant to insects may be developed, much as strains of wheat resistant to the wheat stem sawfly have been produced.

Even now, he suggested, stockmen have pretty effective weapons for use against the insect thieves that cost them money every year. Most of the newer ones that are bought in stores can be called "chlorinated hydrocarbons," including methoxychlor, DDT, lindane, toxaphene and chlordane. These will control pests, but he warns

that all are poisonous.

When using them, he suggests these precautions. Do not use dusts, without wearing a mask and rubber gloves. After spraying or dusting, remove all contaminated clothing and wash all exposed parts of the body. Be alert to such symptoms of poisoning as skin irritation, nausea, dizziness, labored breathing and twitching muscles. If these do appear, see a doctor. Finally, he adds, always follow directions on the insecticide container when using it.

Methoxychlor, says Mr. Painter, is the safest of all of these, and can be used in dairy barns and on milking animals to control stable flies, house flies, horn flies and lice. Weakness of this one is that it is not as effective

DDT, although relatively safe as a direct spray to control lice and the horn and stable flies, will be absorbed through the skin and stored in the body fat, and in the milk of lactating animals. That's why it shouldn't be used on dairy cattle, or in the stables housing them. It is useful against house flies that have not built up resistance, or against black-fly and mosquito larvae. It doesn't bother dogs, but must not be used on cats.

Lindane is safe for adult livestock, but is dangerous to young calves. Although it is effective against some flies, house flies can become resistant to it. It can become stored in the animal's body, but is more rapidly eliminated than DDT.

Toxaphene is safe as a spray for adult animals, but must not be used on calves. It is poisonous to dogs, and should not be used on poultry.

Chlordane is a safe, effective insecticide for lice and sheep keds, if used on adult animals, but again, it is not safe for use on calves. Even this one should not be used in repeated doses throughout the season, because it is readily stored in the animal's

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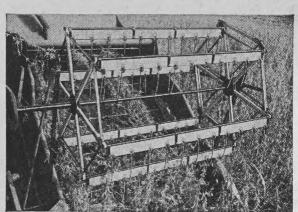
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#### FIELD



Testing new out varieties for rust resistance at the Laboratory of Cereal Breeding, Winnipeg. Left: J. N. Welsh, who headed the breeding projects that developed Rodney, Garry, and several other widely grown out varieties. Right: J. G. Bonk, technician, who received a Coronation medal for his work in cereal breeding.

#### **New Crops** For Western Canada

Varieties of cereal crops and flax that are now under test at experimental institutions hold promise of being an improvement in some ways in certain areas over present varieties

by R. F. PETERSON

E ACH year the experimental stations and universities in the prairie provinces co-operate in growing yield tests of new varieties of cereals and flax in comparison with the best standard sorts. Associate Committees of the National Research Council and Canada Department of Agriculture meet each year in February when they examine the data on field performance, disease resistance and quality of new varieties in order to assess their merits. Three cereal varieties approved a year ago were licensed, named and distributed in 1953 and have now become standards for comparison of newer varieties. These three are Selkirk wheat, Rodney oats and Husky barley. Their performance in the 1953 tests, as shown below, was again outstanding.

Twenty-five varieties of wheat were tested at 22 points in the prairie provinces in 1953. In Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan, Selkirk wheat, with its resistance to 15B stem rust, outyielded all other varieties with an average yield of 50.5 bushels per acre. On the average of all tests in the three provinces Selkirk shared top place with a later-maturing sister strain, both yielding close to 41 bushels per acre. These small-plot tests usually give higher yields per acre than are obtained under regular field conditions, but they detect varietal differences very accurately. In Alberta and western Saskatchewan, where rust was not an important factor, Thatcher was slightly above Selkirk in yield.

Sixteen oat varieties were tested at 14 points in the prairie provinces as well as at one station in British Columbia and two in Ontario. On the average Rodney yielded highest with 82.7 bushels per acre. The new strain of Garry came second with 77.7 bushels. Rodney is a strong-strawed, rust-resistant, smut-resistant variety with exceptionally large, plump kernels. The new Garry selection has similar disease resistance but a less plump kernel.

Twenty barley varieties were tested at 16 points in the prairie provinces. Husky, a smooth-awned, six-rowed, rust-resistant feed barley from the University of Saskatchewan was the highest average yielder with 55.8 bushels per acre.

These newly licensed varieties have thus again performed well up to expectations. Applications for seed have exceeded supply, and all available seed has been allocated.

MONG the newer varieties not A yet licensed but in the final stages of testing one bread wheat and two feed barley have been found to be outstanding in certain areas. They are still under number and will be named if they are licensed.

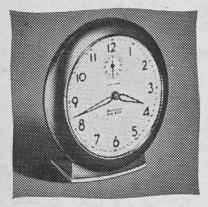
The new wheat, known as C.T. 918, was developed at the Scott Experimental Station from the cross Regent x Canus, the parents that also produced Redman. C. T. 918 is adapted to west central Saskatchewan and adjacent parts of Alberta, in which areas it outyields Thatcher, Selkirk, Redman and other varieties. It is similar to Redman in rust reaction and is not resistant to 15B stem rust. It is equal to Marquis in milling and baking quality.

One of the barley varieties, known as Br.1259-597, is a smooth-awned, six-rowed, rust-resistant feed barley developed at the Brandon Experimen-



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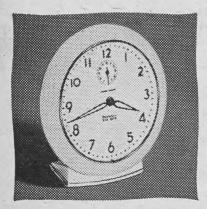


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Western Clock Company Limited Peterborough, Ontario

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#### FIELD

tal Station from the cross Titan x Vantage. It resembles Vantage but excels that variety in resistance to root rot and leaf spots. It gives its best performance in Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. The new variety is more tolerant of moist conditions than

The other barley variety, L4752, was developed at the Lacombe Experimental Station. Its ancestors include Sanalta, Titan, Montcalm and Olli. It is an early-maturing, smoothawned, six-rowed feed barley with strong straw; it gives high yields in central Alberta.

There are no new malting barleys, nor durum wheats resistant to 15B stem rust, in the final stages of testing, but promising lines are evident in the early testing stages.

A new early-maturing linseed flax variety named Raja has been de-veloped by the Cereal Division at Ottawa. In tests in the prairie provinces it has yielded more than other early-maturing varieties but slightly less than the late-maturing varieties, Redwood and Rocket. Under conditions where very late seeding is necessary, it is superior to Redwood and Rocket. Raja is resistant to rust and wilt and has some tolerance to pasmo. This variety is being increased in 1954 under contract for distribution in 1955 if it is licensed.

While the results described above are very gratifying, the question that causes most concern to the plant breeders and plant pathologists is whether they can keep ahead of the new races of rusts, particularly stem rusts, that are being produced in nature. The two stem rust races capable of attacking Selkirk wheat, races 12 and 15B-3, were found in only extremely small traces in 1953. New wheats resistant to these and other known races have been developed, but will require several years for adequate testing and multiplying. The situation in durum wheat is less favorable. The best stocks of Rodney and Garry oats are resistant to all known stem rust races. Barley varieties such as Vantage, Br.1259-597 and Husky have considerable resistance to wheat stem rust, but are susceptible to rye stem rust. So far the situation has been kept fairly well in hand, but the future is rendered uncertain by the appearance, from time to time, of new, virulent races of rust.

(Dr. R. F. Peterson is officer-incharge, Laboratory of Cereal Breeding, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and chairman of the Associate Committee on Plant Breeding.-ed.)

#### **Fertilizer Costs** Vary Widely

THE increased use of fertilizer means that the cost of this product steadily represents a larger part of the costs of operating a farm. For this reason, in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture field crop recommendations for 1954, the Manitoba Fertilizer Board emphasizes the importance of considering the relative price of plant nutrients in fertilizer purchased.

The Board points out that the approximate cost of a pound of fertilizer ingredients in granular 11-48-0 fertilizer is 10 cents, in granular 16-

### MR. NEWCOMER



- The Province of Saskatchewan provides its residents with financial protection against costly hospital bills through the SASKATCHEWAN HOSPITAL SERVICES PLAN.
- Newcomers to the Province become eligible for coverage under the Plan after residing in it for six months.
- If you are a newcomer to Saskatchewan, you should take proper steps to obtain protection for you and your family before you have completed six months' residence in the Province.

#### HOW THE PLAN AFFECTS **NEW RESIDENTS**

- 1. You should pay your hospitalization tax before the first day of the seventh calendar month after arrival.
- Coverage for hospital bills will then be provided from the first day of the seventh calendar month following entry into the Province.
- If you are late paying your tax, benefits will start one month after date of tax payment.
- The tax which new residents pay to obtain coverage until December 31 is at the rate of \$1.26 per month for adults and 42 cents per month for dependents under 18, with a family maximum of \$3.34 per month.
- Pay at the nearest SHSP tax collection office of the city, town, village, rural municipality or local improvement district in which you live.

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#### FIELD

granular 331/2-0-0 the cost is 15 cents, and in granular 10-32-10 the cost is 11 cents.

On the other hand, the cost of buying one pound of fertilizer ingredient in liquid 5-10-5 fertilizer is \$1.10, and the cost of buying it in liquid 7-14-7 is \$1.00, amounting to 10 or 11 times the cost of the same amount of fertilizer ingredients bought in 11-48-0.

A report from the Experimental Station, Scott, Saskatchewan, indicates that experiments at the station in 1950 and 1951 showed no significant increase or decrease in yield from the use of liquid fertilizers alone applied to the seed at the recommended rate of one gallon to eight bushels of seed. They also report that ammonium phosphate 11-48-0 fertilizer applied at 20 pounds per acre resulted in the significant yield increase of 6.3 bushels per acre.

The cost of 20 pounds of 11-48-0 at current prices at Scott is about 1.06 dollars per acre, and to supply the same amount of phosphate in the form of liquid fertilizer, 5-10-5, would cost more than \$20.00.

When used as recommended, the plant nutrients in the granular or dry fertilizers are utilized by plants as readily as those applied in liquid form, and, hence, farmers and fertilizer dealers, noting the great difference in the price of fertilizer ingredients contained in liquid and dry fertilizers, should ignore extravagant and unproven claims made by interested parties, advises the Manitoba Fertilizer Board. They suggest that fertilizers be evaluated on the basis of the cost per pound of plant food or fertilizer ingredients.

#### Seed for Sale: \$750 a Bushel

SCHEME to get money from un-A wary farmers in North Dakota has recently been reported by the North Dakota Agricultural College. The technique adopted was to sell wheat seed at five dollars for a packet of 300 seeds-a per bushel price of about

20-0 the cost goes up to 13 cents, in \$750. To create the impression that this was a rare variety, the offer limited one person to six packets.

Examination revealed that the seed is a Poulard wheat, a European type which is grown in the Mediterranean area. It can be grown as either a winter or a spring wheat, and has a large branching head, compared with the single head of our standard varieties.

Is it worth \$750 a bushel? The North Dakota Experimental Station has tested it and finds it inferior to recommended varieties in yield and in milling and baking qualities. The secretary of the Northwest Crop Improvement Association advises that this wheat is a feed grain, and is quite useless on the farms of the people to whom it is being offered.

#### **Keep Clean Land** Clean

IT should be possible to raise low cost crops on new breaking. Very often this advantage is lost. The land may be virtually weed free when it is broken, but after it has been planted with dirty seed once or twice, or has been harvested with machinery carrying a load of weed seeds, it is as much of a weed control problem as any field on the farm.

Most weeds are spread to new land by seed. It may be difficult to prevent some weed seeds from infecting the new breaking, especially if the soil drifts over from an old field, but the use of clean seed and the careful cleaning of machinery will slow up the infestation. Care in preventing the seeding of weeds that do grow on new land, will also keep the fields clean.

If new land becomes infected with serious weeds, such as couchgrass, wild oats, toad flax, field bindweed or leafy spurge, the weed should be identified, and the patch isolated and worked. Machinery pulled through the patch and down the field may infect the whole field.

It is pointed out by J. A. Newman, of the Experimental Sub-Station, Vermilion, Alta., that it is much less expensive to avoid infestation of a field, than to eradicate established weeds. V

#### Manitoba Seed **Growers Meet**

Pure seed raisers in Manitoba deplore the amount of poor seed planted

IT may be necessary to make the price of registered seed more attractive to potential buyers, T. W. Spafford told the Manitoba branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association in his presidential address. He felt that, even though the price is not unduly high, money is less readily available than it has been of recent years, and that the price might be reducing the use of good seed.

He also felt that it was most desirable that reduced freight rates should be available for registered seed, and suggested that perhaps the federal or provincial departments of agriculture might give some assistance.

A. B. Masson of the Laboratory of Cereal Breeding, Canada Department

of Agriculture, Winnipeg, told the seed growers that if Selkirk wheat had not been increased during the winter of 1952-53 in the southern United States, instead of having 150,000 bushels of seed to distribute this year, there would be only 12,000 to 15,000 bushels available. In the spring of 1953 6,000 bushels were brought back from increase fields grown in the south during the winter season, and this was further increased by contract growers during the summer of 1953. All seed has now been allocated to growers, and is being distributed.

In the summer of 1953 Selkirk wheat withstood the attacks of 15B rust. However, a new strain of rust that will attack Selkirk has now been

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Tractors for the fuel you prefer. For the most advanced diesel tractor, see the big new Case Model "500." Both the 4-5 plow Model "LA" and entire 3-4 plow Case "D" Series are available with fuel equipment for propane (shown above on the "LA"), low-cost tractor fuels, or gasoline. The new 2-3 plow "SC" and "SC4" with 15% added power, also the low-cost "VA" Series, like all Case engines, are fuel-savers!

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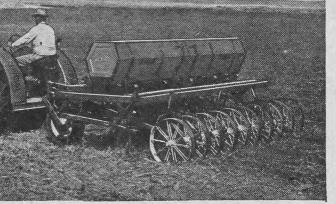
**Six-cylinder** Case-built engine is unusually simple, durable. Has heavy 7-bearing crankshaft, multiple cylinder heads.

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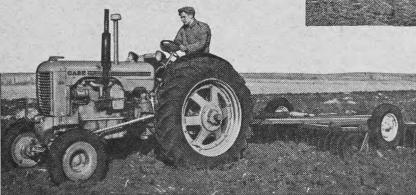
Constant Power Take-Off starts and stops PTO machines independently of traction clutch. Constant Hydraulic Control is independent of other controls. Dual Valve gives selective control of two portable cylinders.

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New help for dryland farmers—the new Case Lister-Type Press Drill that scatters seed in bands about 6 inches wide centered 14 inches apart; then firms soil over the seed. Deep, wide furrows hold snow for extra moisture, help control blowing. Scattering seed reduces competition for water, gives every plant a chance to make full yield. You get famous Case Seedmeter precision planting, too.



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#### FIELD

identified, and breeding work against this race is proceeding.

Through the years the durum wheats have been more resistant to rusts than the bread wheats, but as a group the durums are even more susceptible to 15B rust than are the bread wheats, Mr. Masson told the seed growers.

In the search for durum resistance to 15B, over 20,000 strains and varieties of durum wheat material have been tested, but the type of resistance required has not yet been located. In 1950 it was decided that the best procedure would be to build up the type of resistance required. This attempt has met with some success, and there are now several strains under test.

A number of speakers expressed regret over the fact that many farmers are sowing inferior seed when they might increase both yield and quality by using high quality, pure seed. It was felt that this spring would be a particularly good time for farmers to use more good seed as they are able to sell up to 200 bushels of their own grain, without affecting their quota, if they plan to buy up to 100 bushels of pure seed.

#### Argentine versus Polish Rape

THE Argentine variety of rape was grown almost exclusively during the period when rape was first generally grown in western Canada. During the expansion of production which has taken place over the last two years the Polish variety has come into much more general use. The question is often raised as to which of these varieties is the most satisfactory under our conditions.

Over a period of several years these two varieties have been compared in tests conducted at the Forage Crops Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, reports W. J. White, who is officer-incharge of the Laboratory. More recently, similar tests have been conducted at the Experimental Station, Melfort, Saskatchewan, and at the Co-operative Vegetable Oils Plant, Altona, Manitoba.

It has been established that the yield of Argentine rape is very often double that of Polish, the only exception being when a midsummer drought depresses the yield of Argentine more severely than it does the earlier maturing Polish. This is a rare situation in the greater part of the rape-growing area, and it is safe to say that from the standpoint of yield Argentine is decidedly superior to Polish.

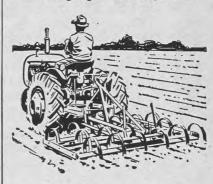
One of the chief reasons farmers grow Polish rape is that it is two or three weeks earlier maturing than Argentine. However, even though it is later than Polish, Argentine is not a late maturing crop. It normally matures in 80 to 100 days from seeding, which means that it is as early, or earlier, than Thatcher wheat.

It is sometimes claimed that Polish does not shatter as readily as Argentine. Because of its earliness Polish usually ripens evenly, and can be straight combined, while the later maturing Argentine may need to be swathed to get greener patches to ripen before frost.

Except for those areas having a short growing season, Argentine appears to be the better variety.



"So much to do and so little time" sums up the farmers' feelings in the Spring, when they are trying to get their seeding done. If tillage equipment is not in good working order, costly delays and mounting repair bills may result.



If your equipment is worn out, lack of cash need not keep you from getting the equipment you need. Imperial Bank recognizes the need for good equipment and have Farm Improvement Loans available for such purposes.

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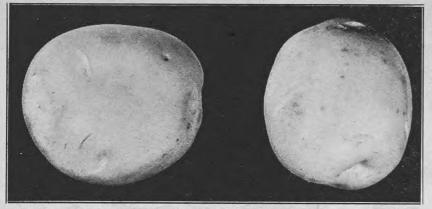


Why not drop in and see your local Imperial Bank Manager, and have a chat with him. He is interested in your financial requirements and would be glad to tell you how Farm Improvement Loans can help you solve them.

40-3



#### HORTICULTURE



The Osseo potato (Minnesota 23), an early, white, roundish variety evolved in Minnesota. It has not done especially well on the Canadian prairies.

#### Osseo, **Extra-Early Potato**

NEW extra-early potato, espe-A cially well adapted to the plains and prairie provinces of Canada, has been developed by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Named the Osseo, it was formerly known as Minnesota 23. The potato is a white variety, which produces a high percentage of tubers, more than 21/4 inches in diameter. In fact, one of its exceptional characteristics is the large number of tubers it yields, which are of marketable size. The potatoes are smooth, round and blocky.

Plants are upright and compact, with few secondary branches. Stems are thick and sturdy, and leaves are large.

Osseo seems to satisfy the need for an extra-early variety, for early harvest, early market and for early potatoes from the home garden.-Josephine B. Nelson, Univ. of Minnesota.

#### Some Hardiest **Apples and Crabs**

IT is extremely difficult to get apples for northern areas which are both fairly hardy and of good quality. At the Manitoba Horticultural Association meeting in February, R. M. Wilson of Gladstone, Manitoba, who was formerly horticulturist at the experimental farm, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, said that only Heyer No. 12 among apples could be safely recommended for planting in the north. Last year at the Saskatchewan Fruit Show, for example, a sample of this variety was shown which had been grown at Dore Lake, Township 65, almost as far north as Flin Flon. It is both hardy and annually productive as well as early maturing. It does not keep well and lacks some quality and color.

Next in order Mr. Wilson placed Haralson which lacks something in hardiness but, he said, "usually comes through most winters to produce some fruit." It is late maturing, but when fully matured it is acceptable either for dessert or cooking and should be grown along with Heyer No. 12. Other apple varieties more or less in order of preference were: Battleford, Moscow Pear and Hibernal. After these come some of the applecrabs headed by Rescue, probably the hardiest and most reliable cropper as well as of excellent quality for a short period before it goes mealy. Others are Renown, Rosilda and Trail.

Among the crabapples, Osman is one of the hardiest; Dolgo, early maturing, ornamental and unexcelled for jelly, as well as hardy enough to crop every year. Columbia, Sylvia, Florence and Robin, are others of the more reliable suitable for northern areas.

#### How to Graft

PRAIRIE gardeners and fruit growers often have varieties that either have not fruited satisfactorily or are for some reason undesirable and could be grafted to another variety with very little trouble. As a rule, these operations are performed immediately before or just after growth begins in the spring, depending on the type of tree. For small trees, budding, which involves grafting of a single bud on another plant, is generally preferred and is performed in late summer or in the spring while the bark still slips well. Grafting, as the term is commonly used, involves a twig or shoot (scion) which contains several buds.

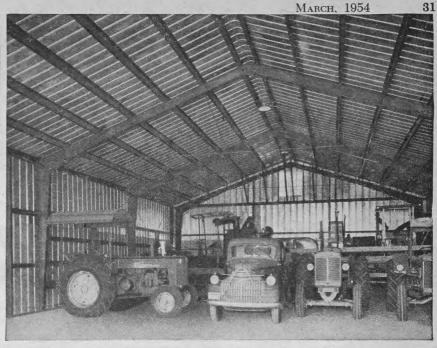
Brief notes about the various types of grafting can be obtained from the experimental station at Morden and a publication on the subject of top grafting can also be secured from any experimental station and probably from most agricultural representatives or district agricultural offices.

Grafting is a relatively simple operation and is often needed to save fruit trees that have been girdled by mice during the winter.

#### Prune Early

A NY pruning of tree or small fruits that is done this spring should be done well before the sap starts to move. It has not been customary in the prairie provinces to prune tree fruits very much, other than to remove dead or broken branches, but in northern areas something can be done to encourage the trees to grow close to the ground so that they may have the advantage of as much snow cover as possible. Training tree fruits to hug the ground increases the danger of damage from mice and rabbits: but since very few varieties are thoroughly hardy, most experienced growers favor taking this risk as a guarantee of fruit on the lower branches, at least after severe winters.

Currants, raspberries and gooseberries are often neglected as far as pruning is concerned and some pruning must be given them for best results. Black currants bear most of their fruit



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on one-year-old wood and on the laterals of two-year-old wood, whereas red and white currants and gooseberries bear most of their fruit on the two and three-year-old stems. Thus, the simplest pruning of black currants is to remove all of the stems older than one or two years and thin the younger ones to 10 or 12 stems. For gooseberries and red and white currants, on the other hand, all branches older than three years and all weak growths should be removed and the age of the remaining stems regulated so that there will be an equal number of one-year-old, twoyear-old and three-year-old stems to

make a total of about nine.

Raspberries are not pruned until after they have fruited in the summer. The canes fruit the year after they are grown and should then be removed and the new canes thinned out to leave only the strongest ones, and these from six to nine inches apart. If the raspberry plants were pruned last summer after fruiting, it may help to take a few inches off the tips of the canes early this spring to induce as much lateral growth as possible, since this growth bears most of the fruit. V

### **Choose Varieties Carefully**

PRAIRIE vegetable gardeners will do well to choose recommended varieties of vegetables for planting this spring. There are many varieties of vegetables available and it is not always easy to pick one that will do well in your district. Lists are available from all or most of the experimental stations as well as from the horticulture departments at provincial universities. In Manitoba and Alberta, lists of all recommended varieties of both fruits and vegetables are available by writing to the Provincial Horticulturist, Legislative Building, Winnipeg or Edmonton.

If you have planned to order fruit trees, small fruits or ornamentals for planting this spring, it is particularly important to select only those that are hardy and suitable for our rigorous climate. Picking varieties from a seed or nursery catalogue is sometimes risky unless you are sure they are adapted to western Canada. Alberta readers can get both recommended varieties and a list of nurseries by writing for the Alberta Horticultural Guide. These are also obtainable from any district agriculturist's office. The Manitoba list of recommended horticultural varieties can be obtained from agricultural representatives in that province.

#### When Seeds Do Not Come Up

WHY do vegetable seeds not germinate? This may happen, even though they comply with the Canada Seeds Act, under which all vegetable seeds offered for sale are subjected to a germination test shortly before packaging, and all seed rejected, which does not meet the minimum standards under the Act. The fault, according to the Experimental Station at Saanichton, B.C., may be in poor management, which may have permitted the seeds to dry out, or it may be a failure to secure

uniform moisture, or result from sowing too deep, or allowing the soil surface to bake, or the young plants to "damp off."

The Station mentions another source of trouble, however, which is not often given much consideration. This has to do with the storage of the seed after purchase. Apparently, experimenters have been able to prove that the moisture content of the seed changes very rapidly with changes in the moisture content of the air. From work of this kind, it has been concluded that high humidity and high temperature is the worst possible combination for maintaining the germinability of seeds. Onion seed is particularly sensitive and, in one test, the seed was practically killed when held for only one month at 90 per cent humidity, and a temperature of 77° F. Even after ten days, significant losses occurred. Apparently the least impairment of germination occurred when both temperature and humidity were maintained at a low level. This means that seed should be stored until needed in the coolest, driest conditions obtainable.

#### Beans-And to Spare

It doesn't seem to matter what time of the year it may be, most of us can always enjoy a generous helping of beans. Some people prefer them baked, others like them pork-and-bean style, with tomato sauce, or perhaps we have them just boiled, with butter and salt and a dash of pepper.

Nevertheless, I seldom included beans among my garden vegetables, simply because I couldn't get them to ripen before the early frosts in the fall. If I planted them too early in the spring they would be sure to freeze when the first small shoots appeared above the ground. I was at a loss to know what to do—that is, until I solved the problem one day while gathering vegetables for dinner.

I noticed all the bean pods were almost at bursting point. There was going to be a bumper crop in 1952, no doubt about it, except that, as usual, they were still as green as grass. If I left them they were sure to freeze, so why not experiment?

Right then and there, I pulled every plant up by the roots and laid them in neat rows side by side, merely swathing them. Why wouldn't they ripen just as the grain does when men swath it down?

I left them here to dry for some time. Two heavy downpours of rain gave them a thorough soaking, but each time, as soon as the ground was dry, I turned them over onto a dry spot to prevent molding.

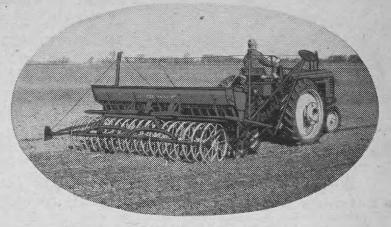
When the pods were completely ripened into a bright golden color, I got busy and shelled them. This was easy, for the pods were brittle and the beans fairly fell from them. Every bean was firm as a nut and plump.

Last winter was the first time we had beans to spare, and they were tastier and more appetizing than I could remember eating them in a long, long time. Certainly, from now on I will always add beans to my collection of garden vegetables.—Mrs. John Phillips, Sask.

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Crops Have a Better Chance to

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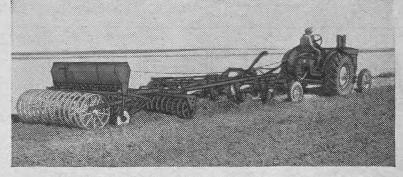
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## The Passing Of the Waddy

Where are the days of yesterday; and where are the cowboys who flourished then?

by JOHN PATRICK GILLESE

HERE'S a dearth of "waddies" in the Canadian west now, which is just another way of saying that the days of the genuine old-time cowboy are over. He's become a victim of progress, of the changing years. On the few big ranches in the southern Alberta foothills, where the last of Canada's cowboys seem to have been driven, like as not his saddle-if he has one-is rotting in the rafters above the stalls of the barn. Instead of riding herd with a faithful cow-pony, he takes the jeep or the pick-up truck through the pasture gate and over the sagebrush. He may "ride" on a Sun-day afternoon to rid himself of some of his own lonely nostalgia. But even when he goes to visit his girl friend now, it's by car-not by pony. Ditto for his rides to town.

The Canadian cowboy, like his American counterpart, belonged to a breed apart. He began life yodelling to his own lonely self and the wind-tracked prairies, twirling a lariat, riding bareback—and dreaming. He dreamed pretty much as did his favorite heroes—the "cowboys" of wild west fiction. The big dream, always, was to become a topnotch rodeo rider, or to have a spread of his own.

When he went to work—usually at about the age of 14—summer rain and winter cold and the work routine, killed the dream quickly. Instead of galloping down canyons after strays, he was given the job of mending fences, milking cows and weaning calves. In winter, when a man could scarcely keep from freezing when walking, much less riding, he hauled baled hay and cleaned the barns. There were rodeos, true . . . and it is incredible that "farm cowboys" could ride in them the way they did, and still do, on occasion.

Cowboy life was always a gamble, even for those who were good. Herman Linder—a rodeo producer now, at Cardston, Alberta—says the remnants of today's cowboys are lucky if they make two or three thousand dollars a year, not counting expenses. There are, says Linder, about 15 cowboys in the world who make more than \$20,000 in a year; and a few more manage to win between \$10,000 to \$20,000—while they last.

Linder himself is an authentic cowboy, who has been in the rodeo business since 1924 when, at the age of 17, he won top money at the Cardston Stampede. He considers himself one of the lucky ones; the worst he ever got, he says, was a smashed knee and a chipped spine. He quit riding broncos in 1939. Since then, he's ranched in the flatlands of the south, and has become noted as a rodeo judge and stampede producer.

Linder knows the hazards of cowboy life well. Despite the fact that Alberta's ace cowboy, Pete Knight, was killed by a brone, the Cardston rodeo man says horses account for very few deaths. "The Brahma bulls," he says, "are responsible for most rider deaths." The Brahmas are imported from California. They are ridden one day only, then rested for two, so they can get back in shape. Only the mean ones are used—"and they are really mean." For a chance at as little as \$50 prize money (in the depression years) amateur cowboys sometimes lost an eye to these bulls, or went around for a week with their ribs taped in bandages . . . and without the money. Someone had been better—or luckier—than they.

The "waddy" is an authentic American product; and while he was always an individual, he was a type, too. Because he left school so early, he never acquired enough education to go after, or even desire, any worthwhile business enterprise of his own. He began by "hiring out" on some ranch (or more likely, farm) for "going wages"a dollar a day in the west's heyday, board and tobacco money in the depression days-and he never worked well without a boss. He was absolutely honest, completely trustworthy, except for the few times-notably in the fallwhen he "went to town with the boys." His big dream was always to own a spread of his own.

A few made it. The odd one, like Wilf Carter, appealed to the imagination of the city people; or like Gene Autrey, got picked up by the movies. The most enterprising saw a vision of the future: you'll find them today operating dude ranches in the mountains. But the horses they rent out to tourists are so tame (or old) that a real cowboy would consider them crow-bait. They are picked for gentleness. (The few really mean horses found on ranches today are usually sold to rodeos.) In addition, many of the big-game outfitters are ex-cowboys; the "brones" are pack-horses, used by American big-game hunters (at perhaps \$50 a day for guide and horse) to tote huge elk and moose heads out of the hills.

Where have the western waddies gone? A few, like Linder, have drifted along with the times. Some of the west's most prominent businessmen were, if not cowboys, at least associated with them—the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, for example, who ran a great cattle ranch in the foothills. But, by and large, the current crop have just faded from the range.

It could hardly be said that most of them really loved horses, but they loved the mechanization of agriculture even less. Today, they are more likely to be working for an oil company, or on a construction gang in the city, spending their free evenings taking in western movies. The last of the old-time "hands" are passing out the years stoically; well-treated on the spreads they helped to build — but likely as not to be referred to as "the gardener" by the more socially conscious young mistresses of these ranches.

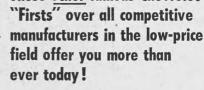
However, in tribute to their fighting spirit, it must be said that the epithet of "gardener" is only applied when they are well out of ear-shot. V

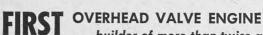
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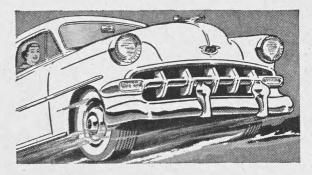
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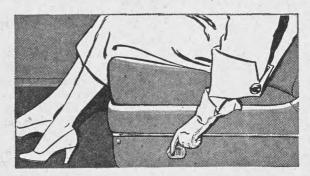
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#### POULTRY

#### **Poultry Replaced** Livestock

A flock of New Hampshires has successfully replaced the cattle and swine herds

 ${
m R}^{
m EG~SMITH}$  originally raised cattle and swine along with grain on his half-section farm at Carman, Manitoba. But his wrists began to tire of milking cows. A bout with Bang's disease cost him dearly, and finally he shipped his herd. He began to expand his wife's thriving little flock of poultry, and soon the birds took over the swine stable. The eight or ten sows followed the cattle on their one-way journey from the farm. Now a confirmed poultryman, he insists that too much diversification means less efficiency and lower profits.

His flock of 630 New Hampshire hens were laying 400 eggs a day when the Guide visited him this winter and most of these were going for hatching at an attractive price.

Every winter in early March, 2,000 chirping chicks are delivered to the farm, where they are started in the well-scrubbed and oil-heated brooder houses. They go to range with brooder houses as their shelters, when the approaching summer brings warmer days, and by the middle of August, with the pullets beginning to lay, selection begins in choosing the birds to go into the laying house for winter.

The very best pullets are retained. Others go to neighboring farmers who are happy to take them. The cockerels are sold for meat.

No care is spared in ensuring that the pullets going into the laying house are healthy. On range, they are fed a commercial growing ration mixed with chopped home-grown grains. Since well-water is scarce, plenty of fresh water is carried to the range from the indispensable farm

Laying pens are kept cool and dry in winter, with open windows and a ventilator to carry stale air from the ceiling right out through the roof. The entire building is well insulated. From the time the pullets begin to lay, they get a daily dose of oil, and Mrs. Smith, who is as enthusiastic about poultry as her husband, says this is the secret of keeping them fat and healthy.

Although most authorities recommend scratch grains for laying birds, the Smith flock gets along very nicely without. The well-ground farm-grown grain, and the hatching mash, keeps the birds laying at full speed.

The instant a hen begins to cluck, she is placed in an uncomfortable cage at one side of the pen, and in a few hours has forgotten her unprofitable inclinations. Every precaution is taken against disease, and the Smiths even risk the displeasure of neighbors who come to see the flock. Chances are that they won't be allowed in the poultry house, for disease can be carried for miles on clean-looking boots. When the pens are cleaned out in the spring, every bird is sold, and the entire building scrubbed down with a good disinfectant. A healthy flock has always resulted from this strict



Reg Smith places a hen in the crate ere she will forget her broodiness.

As long as the price of eggs remains high during the spring and summer, the birds are kept in lay. Then, when the summer price slump comes along, the birds make their last one-way trip through the poultry house doors. But it's not a time for sadness, for already another group of birds is readying itself, in the brooder house or the range, for a winter in the laying

#### Why Turkey **Poults Are Costly**

TURKEY poults are expensive, because fertility and hatchability are two factors, which have not been greatly improved during the past few years. Higher egg production, also, could result in lower costs to those buying poults, as could non-broody laying hens. Here too are factors which have not been improved by breeders, says A. S. Johnson, Poultry Division, Central Experimental Farm,

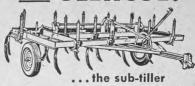
These are the factors that have been left behind, in spite of the rapid improvement turkey breeders have made in the conformation of birds. Breeders have selected fast-growing, broadbreasted turkeys, and he points out that many strains of turkeys leave little to be desired in this regard. The need before breeders now is to improve the other characteristics, to further lower production costs.

Although it has been a relatively easy job to measure breast conformation and body size, Mr. Johnson comments that fertility, hatchability and egg production are not as easily measured, and this is the reason for the slow progress. Birds would have to be hand-mated, and the hens trapnested to develop these factors, and it would be an expensive procedure. Again, the heritability of egg production and of hatchabflity, seem to be low, compared with that of conformation and body size; therefore, progress is bound to be slow.

He concludes that breeders who can overcome these defects in their Conserve moisture

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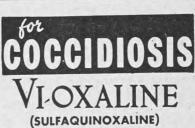
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#### POULTRY

strains of breeding turkeys, through a planned breeding program, will be the industry leaders of tomorrow.

#### Plan Your Program

WOULD you like a few thumb rules to help plan your poultry enterprise for the coming year? H. R. Bird of the University of Wisconsin suggests a few that are well worth keeping in mind. Here are some of them.

House chicks in disinfected quarters, allowing one-half square foot floor space per chick up to eight weeks and one square foot after eight weeks. Brooder temperature for starting the chicks must be 95 degrees. At the feed hoppers, the chicks will need one inch of space each, and the fountain should provide two gallons of water for every 100 baby chicks. At eight weeks, the feeder space can be doubled. Then, to guard against spread of disease, build a poultry disposal pit.

This poultry specialist also suggests that when the pullets are ready for range, a good stand of ladino clover is valuable.

When the pullets come into lay, the pullet house should be wellcleaned and disinfected. When the laying flock falls below 50 eggs per 100 hens, it is time for some serious culling. He suggests, too, that eggs be gathered at least three times a day in wire baskets, and held at a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees, with 70 to 80 per cent humidity. Marketing should take place as soon as possible.

#### Vaccinate for Newcastle

SEVERAL million doses of the Blacksburg strain of Newcastle disease vaccine have been used in Canada to combat this disease. The Health of Animals Division, and the B.C. Poultry Diseases Committee, report that in no case where it was used properly, has it failed to do the job for which it was intended.

It is pointed out that Newcastle disease was rarely seen in British Columbia in 1952, because the vaccine was so effective. This created a false sense of security, however, and when poultrymen failed to vaccinate in 1953, or used too low a dosage, the

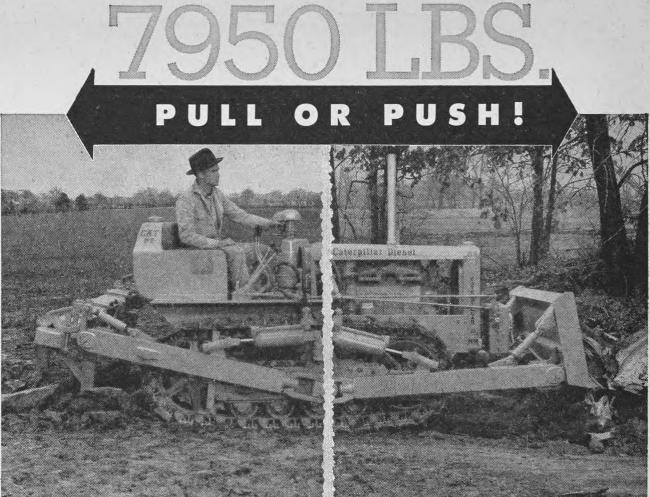
disease reappeared.

The B.C. Committee warns that the only way Newcastle disease can be eliminated, as a flock problem, is by vaccination, whether by the ocular or

spray method.

First, the chicks must be vaccinated when they are two or three days old, re-vaccinated when 10 to 12 weeks of age, and again at five to six months. Birds can be vaccinated at any age when in production, without an appreciable drop, although when birds that are over their peak of production are vaccinated, their normal decline may be accentuated.

During the two weeks following vaccination of baby chicks, care should be taken to avoid chilling; and it is advisable to raise the brooderhouse temperature two or three degrees.

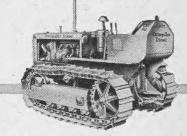


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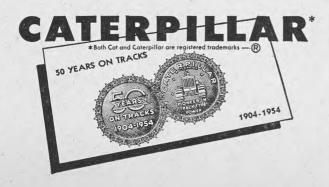
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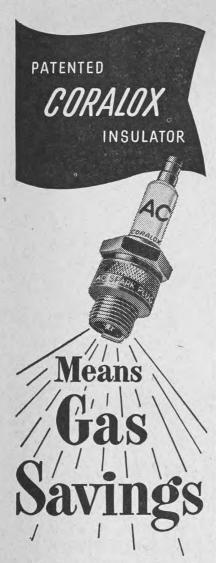


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#### WORKSHOP

#### **Useful Ideas** For Early Spring

March is a good month for making the drill more efficient, repairing screens, building a better mouse trap, and completing other jobs

Pump Trough Support. I support the trough that runs from my pump to the stock-watering tank with a fairly heavy spring, wired to the cross

bar of the windmill above. The length of the spring is so adjusted that the spring will hold the pipe up against the spout, but it can still be



pushed down and out of the way when you are pumping into a bucket. -D.I.N.

Constant Speed Regulator. If you have trouble keeping your car at a constant speed, drive at your usual speed and have someone measure the



distance the accelerator is from the floor boards. Fit a spring this length under the

accelerator, and if you start to go too fast the spring will have to be compressed and you will feel the harder pressure.-A.B., Sask.

Shovel Repair. The handle on a broken scoop shovel can be repaired

with the metal cylinder off an old tire pump. Take the broken handle out of the shovel,



and the D off the broken handle. Weld the cylinder to the scoop and weld the D onto the other end of the cylinder.-A.I.C.

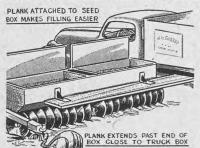
Drill Box Window. To save time spent running back to the drill during



the busy spring work season I cut two small windows in the front of the drill box, and puttied in glass. In this way I can tell at a

glance how much grain there still is in the box.-M.I.G.

Seeder Platform. Lifting grain down from the truck box and up to the seeder box can be back-breaking work. A plank walk attached to the back of the one-way or drill box, as shown in



the illustration, permits easier filling. On a one-way, the plank should extend about two feet beyond the end of the seed box to clear the wheels of the one-way, and so allow driving the truck right up to the end of the plank.

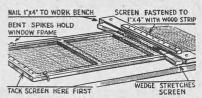
Bin Mouse Trap. If mice are infesting your grain bins, set a large can

into the grain with the top nearly flush, as shown. Fill the can about twothirds full of water and then sprinkle a hand-



ful of oats mixed with a little cornmeal in the pail. I have found a good many mice will be fooled into jumping into the pail.—I.W.D.

Tight Window Screening. If building or repairing window screens I stretch the wire smoothly and evenly by the method shown in the illustration. I nail the screen to one end of the frame, nail a suitable piece of



1 x 4 to the bench, place the wire over this board, and, using about ten thin nails, I nail a three-foot strip over the screen. I bend two large spikes over to hold the screen in line and drive two wedges between the screen frame and the 1 x 4. When the screen is tight I nail it into position. -H.E.F.

Narrow Crossed Belts. Wide crossed belts can give trouble if the shafts are close together. You can get around this difficulty by using several narrow belts instead of one wide one. For example, if the belt giving trouble is



six inches wide use three two-inch pulleys on each shaft, each a little wider than the individual smaller belt. The pulleys should be crowned so the belts won't rub against each other. -W.F.S.

Replacing Cylinder Sleeves. When putting cylinder sleeves into the car, truck or tractor I put the new sleeves into the deep freeze for several hours. The cold contracts the metal and the sleeves slip into the cylinder block easily. As they warm up they expand, and fit snugly.-J.I.R.

Spring-cap Lifter. I have found that a narrow strip of metal, bent and

soldered to the tip of an oil can spout, makes a handy opener for spring-cap oilers. It is especially



handy when the oiler is located in a spot that is hard to reach. - A.B., Sask.



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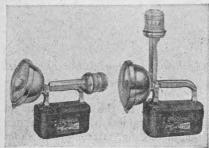
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#### WHAT'S NEW

For further information about any item mentioned in this column, write to What's New Department, The Country Guide, 290 Vaughan St., Winnipeg, giving the key number shown in parenthesis at the end of each item, as—(17).



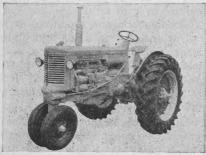
A new hydraulic loader for 2, 3 and 4-plow tractors designed for wide front-end models, is said to have a lifting capacity of over 2,500 pounds. Attachments available are a manure fork with gravel plate, a 14-cubic-foot detachable scoop and a haybasket, with push-off. (Farmhand Company Ltd.)



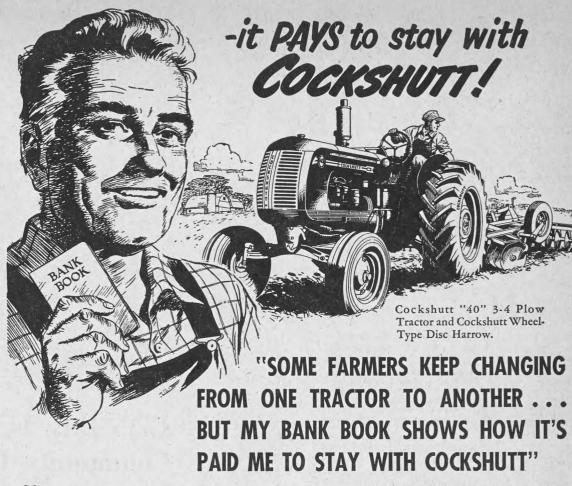
This portable hand lamp, combined with a flashing red beacon, has many uses. With the beacon arm folded down, it acts as a tail-light, but when the arm is lifted upright, the flashing beacon becomes an emergency, or signal light. (U-C Lite Manufacturing Company.)



This new forage harvester has three interchangeable harvesting units—mower bar, row-crop unit, and windrow pick-up. This machine is said to offer eight different lengths of cut for the silage, ranging from 5/16-inch to 3% inches, without extra equipment. (John Deere Plow Co.) (25)



This tractor, powered to handle four-bottom plows, is now available with diesel power. Outstanding feature claimed for its newly designed combustion system is that controlled rotary turbulence burns the air-fuel mixture completely, to give the tractor high fuel efficiency. (Minneapolis - Moline Company.) (26) V



Powered for the big jobs ... designed for economy, the 1954 Cockshutt "40" offers dramatic proof that a big 3-4 plow tractor need no longer be a ponderous, unwieldly fuel eater! Considering its massive strength, stamina and tremendous power, the startlingly low fuel consumption of the new Cockshutt "40" will astound you.

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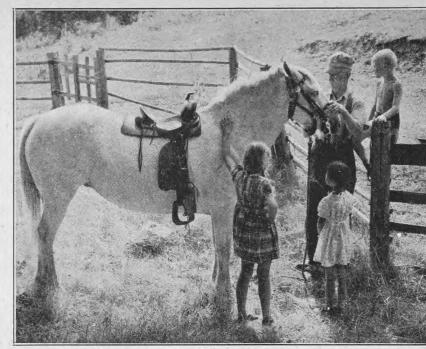
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#### FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



A good saddle pony is admired by every member of the farm family.

#### Club Day Is Community Day

This Manitoba poultry club makes club day a time for a community get-together

EVERYONE takes part in the program when the Eriksdale poultry club meets. Instead of the minimum six meetings required by a club, this group held ten meetings last year. The district sewing club had to fold up, because girls, as well as boys, got interested in poultry. At the final meeting last fall, enthusiasm reached a peak in the district, when the winning birds were selected by poultry specialist D. C. Foster, to climax the summer feeding work of the club members, each of whom had raised some birds.

It was more like an old-time gettogether than many of the district people had seen for years. These young people brought out their scrapbooks, which they had taken on as a special project, and showed them to parents and visitors with welldeserved pride. They took part in a program in which every club member had some part. Doreen Lawrence gave her president's address, and then Alvin Mackus had the group humming to themselves as he played his accordion. Humorous poems by Adele Phillpott and Shirley Lindell brought smiles and chuckles to the audience. They broadened to laughs as Albert Anderson, in his droll effective way, recited "Down on the Farm." Carolyn Brandstrom and Beverley Brandstrom captured the attention of the group with their discussions of poultry club work. The audience sat in rapt attention throughout, and when the program was over and the guest speakers had finished, well-filled sandwiches, cake and steaming black coffee encouraged everyone to finish the day in friendly visits with neighbors whom many hadn't had time to visit during the long days of the busy summer

Club work at Eriksdale is creating a community spirit there which is just as valuable to the district, as the knowledge gained by club members through feeding, fattening and showing their birds.

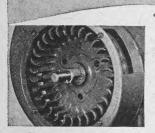
#### Learning Through 4-H Work

LITERATURE from Denmark now indicates that in due course, only young men of some training and insight will be allowed to become farmers in that country, said Rupert Ramsay, at the Saskatchewan Dairy Convention. Director of Extension at the University of Saskatchewan, he pointed out that Denmark can boast an extensive chain of agricultural schools, but that in Saskatchewan, the system of short courses, field days, summerfallow and field competitions, which attempts to give young people sound information, does not begin to offer an opportunity to all our young farmers.

Mr. Ramsay went on to suggest that 4-H club work offers an opportunity to get the gospel of sound agriculture over to farm boys and girls. The contact is not superficial-it involves meeting with an agricultural leader four times each year, a newsletter four times each year, project information continuously, and local leadership at meetings and gatherings once each month.

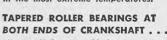
"Each club member undertakes a project," he noted. "It may be a dairy calf, a plot of seed, a homecraft project, a garden or a pair of pigs. Each member must supply himself with the project material. Monthly meetings are held to provide information on the project, but also to give the members an opportunity to develop themselves, to learn something of citizenship, conduct meetings, do public speaking and cultivate friendships.

## WISCONSIN HEAVY-DUTY ENGINE Farm Power Features

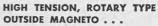


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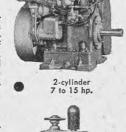


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#### **Annual Report** Canadian Wheat Board

The annual report of the Canadian Wheat Board for the crop year ending July 31, 1953, contains much valuable information for western grain producers. Of particular interest at this time are data relating to sales, Board selling policy and export price trends in the past year.

The Board report points to the record grain production of 1952 following a large crop in 1951 as the most important single factor influencing the internal grain situation during the 1952-53 crop year. Under the impact of phenomenally large production, Board operations were conducted in terms of a large volume of sales and the largest possible internal movement of grain.

Grain production 1951-52 is contrasted below with that of earlier postwar years:

	1945 to 1947	Average Production 1948 to 1950 lion Bushels)	1951	luction 1952
Wheat .	336	375	529	664
Oats		223	340	346
Barley .	_ 136	136	234	281
Rye	8	14	16	23
Flaxseed	8	8	9	12
	726	756	1,128	1,326

Despite new record for world wheat production 1952-53 Canadian exports of wheat (including flour) were 386 million bushels compared with 356 million, 1951-52.

Contributing to a sustained high level of grain movement during the year were the dry condition of the crop and the wide range of grades of wheat available for export. The milling quality of the 1952 wheat crop was below normal and this, says the Board report, worked against sales in some markets. Main competitors for markets in the early months of the year came from the United States, but later, the better crops harvested in Argentina and Australia added to competition.

The following table shows 1952-53 exports of wheat (including wheat exported as flour) by continental areas and major importing countries:

Europe:	Total Wheat and Flour (Bushels)
United Kingdom	123,393,429
Germany	24,346,939
Belgium	20,860,364
Netherlands	15,594,551
Italy	13,570,428
Jugoslavia	10,592,900
Switzerland	
Other European	25,921,320
Total	
Asia:	
Japan	14,961,910
Pakistan	14,450,901
India	
Lebanon	
Philippine Islands	5,341,203
Other Asiatic	
Total	62,215,521
Central America and the Caribbean area:	
Trinidad - Tobago	1,876,892
Cuba	
Jamaica	
Leeward-	
Windward Islands	1,019,934
Others	2,836,236
Total	8,330,586

South America:	Total Wheat and Flour (Bushels)
Brazil	11,456,707
Peru	5,631,409
Venezuela	2,852,153
Bolivia	2,236,357
Chile	1,477,534
Other So. America	2,296,478
Total	25,950,638
Africa:	* * * * *
	10,001,001
Egypt	13,904,964
Union of So. Africa	5,675,599
Libya	772,800
Other African	1,446,305
Total	21,799,668
United States:	
Consumption	17,362,375
Milling in Bond	5,763,620
Total	23,125,995
Grand Total	385,905,185

Western Europe was again the principal market for Canadian wheat taking 67 per cent of Canadian exports of wheat and 39 per cent of wheat exported as flour. The United Kingdom was the largest individual market for both wheat and flour taking from Canada 123.4 million bushels, consisting of 102 million bushels of wheat and 21.4 million bushels of wheat as flour. Other major markets for wheat as flour, in order of importance, were as follows:

	Bushels
Egypt	6,479,771
Philippine Islands _	5,341,203
Lebanon	3,410,649
Venezuela	2,809,778
Trinidad-Tobago	1,876,392
Ceylon	1,462,460
Korea	1,449,909
Hong Kong	1,234,850
Jamaica	1,226,061

#### Wheat Selling Price

During the 1952-53 crop year world demand in relation to world wheat supplies was such that sales of wheat registered under the International Wheat Agreement were made basis the maximum price provided for in the Agreement. As a result of a gradual decline in the premium paid for the Canadian dollar on foreign exchange markets there was an almost continuous rise in Board quotations throughout the year. Fluctuations in the Board's 1952-53 quoted prices for wheat sold under the terms of I.W.A. were due entirely to the changing value of the Canadian dollar on foreign exchange markets. Class II prices (wheat sold outside the terms of I.W.A.) for milling grades of wheat remained above the Agreement price for the entire year.

Wheat for domestic use was quoted at the Agreement price from August 1, 1952, to May 19, 1953, but at the latter date was adjusted upward to provide for the transition from the first International Wheat Agreement to the revised Agreement scheduled to come into effect on August 1, 1953. During the interim period the Board's domestic price was related either to the maximum price under the revised Agreement

#### COMMENTARY

or to the Board's Class II price, whichever was the lower.

The following table shows Board average monthly quotations for sales of wheat under the terms of the International Wheat Agreement and for sales of Class II wheat from August 1, 1952 to July 31, 1953, (basis No. 1 Northern wheat in store Fort William - Port Arthur or Vancouver). I.W.A. prices quoted do not include the 6 cents per bushel carrying charge added to all wheat sold for registration under I.W.A. for the crop year ended July 31, 1953.

	International Wheat Agreement (Cts. per bus.)	Class II Price (Cts. per bus.
August, 1952	173	216%
September	_ 172¾	218½
October	173%	221%
November	_ 175%	227%
December	174%	221%
January, 1953	_ 174%	218%
February	_ 175%	218%
March	_ 177	219%
April	_ 177	215
May	_ 179	211%
June	_ 179	205%
July	_ 178½	204%

Coarse Grains Marketing

Barley:

The Canadian Wheat Board received from producers 176.3 million bushels of barley in the 1952-53 pool, the largest commercial supply of barley ever available in Canada in a single year. Record barley marketings were accompanied by a broad export demand during the time the 1952-53 barley pool was under administration.

The Board reported the sale of 117.7 million bushels of barley in the futures market and 58.5 on a flat

Export demand contrasted with the previous year is illustrated by the following table taken from the Wheat Board reports

oard report.		
	1951-52 (Million	1952-53 Bushels)
Germany	5.9	30.4
United States	10.2	24.1
Japan	15.1	19.4
United Kingdom _	8.0	16.1
Belgium	17.6	12.2
Korea	-	6.1
Netherlands	2.8	5.5
Denmark	3.3	2.6
Norway	2.4	1.1
Switzerland	1.1	.7
Others	3.5	.7
Total	69.9	118.9

· Oats:

Board receipts of oats during the 1952-53 oats pool period (August 1952, to October 9, 1953) consisted of producer deliveries of 118.9 million bushels and 17.4 million bushels carried over from the previous year making a total of 136.3 million bushels. The Board sold oats freely throughout the year disposing of 110.5 million bushels in the futures market and 25.9 million bushels on a flat basis.

Exports of oats in 1952 - 53 amounted to 65.4 million bushels as compared with 70.6 million bushels in the previous crop year. The following table shows the export distribution for the 1951-52 and 1952-53 crop years.

	1951-52 (Million	1952-53 Bushels)
United States	58.6	59.5
Belgium	8.3	4.3
United Kingdom _		.6
Switzerland	.8	.4
Netherlands	1.8	
Others	.1	.1
	69.6	64.9
Rolled Oats		
and Oatmeal	1.0	.5
Total	70.6	65.4

The Canadian Wheat Board this year has made copies of its report available at country points. Producers wishing more detail on the year's operations should contact their local elevator agents for a copy of the

#### Lakehead Wheat Price Reduced

The Canadian Wheat Board, on February 16, announced a reduction in the selling price of Lakehead wheat by seven cents a bushel, basis Number 1 Northern wheat. This measure, said the Board, was designed 'to establish more equality in wheat shipments from various parts of the prairie provinces" by "adopting a policy of making Board wheat generally competitive in overseas markets, irrespective of the port of shipment.'

The Board will now take into account the various ocean freight rates involved in moving wheat to overseas markets in addition to internal shipping costs. Under the new policy separate selling prices will be quoted for wheat in store Pacific coast ports, Fort William/Port Arthur and in store Port Churchill.

Lower forwarding costs of wheat shipped to overseas markets from Pacific coast ports in recent months have resulted in near capacity operation while shipments from Lakehead and Eastern ports have been running below last year's figures. Since Pacific coast suppliers of wheat originate almost exclusively in Alberta, producers in that province would tend materially to gain in elevator deliveries so long as west coast deliveries were preferable to overseas importers. The reduction of the Lakehead quotation will tend to equalize prices at the various outlets giving the buyer the option of buying at his usual port at the same time providing more equality in producers' deliveries in various parts of the prairie provinces.

While no official mention has been made to other reasons for the cut in Lakehead prices, it is quite possible that increased competition for export markets was a contributing factor. With large stocks of wheat in Eastern Terminals and on Saskatchewan and Manitoba farms the Board will be anxious to move large quantities as soon as lake navigation opens next



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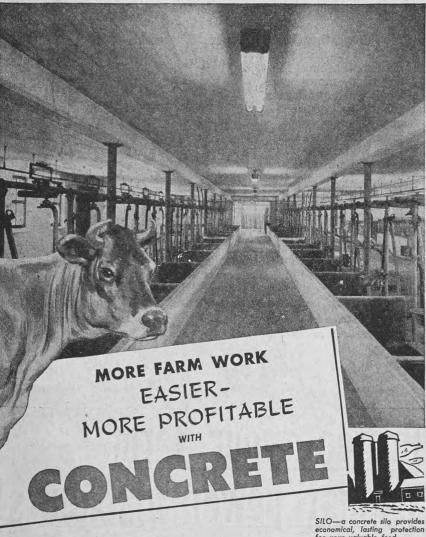
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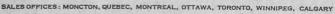
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#### Aunt Em And the Sailor

by DELBERT YOUNG

UNT EM-she's the single aunt I spend my holidays with-was in the kitchen when I rushed in with my big news.

"I've just come from Gilchrist's," I said. "Ned's Uncle Jess, the sailor, is back. He has a black beard and he's been all over the world."

Aunt Em stopped rolling pie crust, but she didn't get excited, like I hoped she would. She wiped flour off her

"Jimmy, go back and close the screen tighter-keep out the flies."

"Shucks, I thought you'd be glad on account of you wanting a man to put up hay."

'Hmmm," said Em, "I need a man, but I doubt if Jess Gilchrist wants to work. Tramping is all Jess wants to do.

"You know him then?"

"I should," she said, and sounded grim. "I've known Jess-off and on-for all of my 30 years.

My hopes dropped. "Only reason I mentioned it, Ned told me he was looking for work."

I stopped, because Aunty was frowning. That surprised me, because the hay was spoiled-according to her -and she couldn't get a man for love or money-so she'd said.

"Never mind, Jimmy. I'll phone Edmonton again. Surely they'll be able to send me someone.'

But Aunty must've thought it over. At dinnertime she was awful quiet until we were nearly finished, then she said, "Jimmy, I was thinking maybe-do you-I mean would you mind going over to the Gilchrist's again?"

That stumbling wasn't Aunt Em's way at all. She usually said a thing and got it over with.

You mean, you've changed your mind? You want him to work here? Gosh, that'd be great."

Her face-Aunt Em is pretty, least I think so-was pinker than usual and she sounded sort of defiant. "I have to get someone quick. He'll do for awhile, anyway."

As I walked the mile over to Gilchrist's place, I got to wondering about Aunt Em and why she'd stayed here all alone, trying to farm, ever since Grandpa died. My Mom said Em was crazy. That she should come to the city and get herself a man. Yeh, Aunt Em was funny. Funny but nice.

WHEN I'd delivered my message to W Jess Gilchrist, he threw back his big head and laughed. "Well I'll be-I never thought I'd see the day-." He sobered, looked at me. "Tell your Aunt I'll move my sea bags over tonight after supper.

I went back and told Em. At twelve you don't notice such things much, but I'll swear she blushed and looked a lot prettier. She bustled around right away. "Jimmy, you'd better help me. We'll fix up Grandpa's room for him. I didn't want to start on it, until I was sure he'd come."

We did that, and after supper Aunty did some primping, put on a new dress and some lipstick. We were sitting on the porch when Jess's old car came limping into the yard.

The car just made it. A few yards back, it gave a loud bang and the motor stopped. It rolled the rest of the way. Jess came out of the old heap grinning. "It's the gas line," he said. "It keeps plugging." He paused, tilted his head and looked at Em. "Gee, Em, you haven't changed a bit. Just as pretty as the night I took you to the dance in Minnick's barn."

I could see Aunty liked him talking that way, but she wouldn't let herself go. She gave a tight little smile. "You haven't changed either, Jess-just as full of things you don't mean as ever."

Jess kept grinning and Aunty turned away. She half flung it over her shoulder, "Jimmy will show you your room."

"I'm not sleeping in any house," said Jess. "Not in the summer. The hayloft for me."

Em swung back. "And burn the place down.

"Oh no, not me. I don't smoke."

When I got up next morning, Jess had already gone to the hayfield, though it was still only seven o'clock.

'Gee, Aunt Em," I said. "You and Jess must've got up real early."

She sniffed. "I hired him to work. Not sleep."

A ND work he did. From sunup to sundown. I'd thought to hear some stories about when he was a sailor, but I never saw much of him except at suppertime, and then he didn't say much. Come Sunday, though, he went to work on the old Chev, cleaning the plugged gas line. I hung around asking questions, and he explained how it worked, how the gas got from the main tank to the vacuum, and from there to the carburetor.

All at once, I said. "How'd you get to be a sailor, Jess?"

"Because I wanted to. You know, Jimmy, I think everybody should do some of the things they'd like to do. Me, I wanted to be a sailor and nobody stopped me, not even a gir. . . . I've never been sorry.'

From there on he told me some stuff about ships and the sea, talking to me just like I was a grown man. He was a nice guy, Jess; and I often wished Aunt Em would use him better. She was always-well sort of snappy with him. I'd got the idea he'd done something on her a long time ago, something she'd never forgot.

I couldn't figure her out. Before he came, she hadn't been so particular. Now, every afternoon, she'd fix up nice before Jess got in from work, and I'd often see her stealing looks at herself in the mirror over the wash basin. I thought she was doing it for him, but soon as he showed up, she'd change and act like she was half mad all the

Once while we were eating, I asked him if it was true that waves were often so big they'd go right over a ship. Em spoke up quick, and told me to quit asking questions.

Jess looked at her. "I don't mind answering things like that." He stopped for a second or two, then he said, "you know that's mostly why I left home—the main reason."

"Reason!" said Em.

"Yes," Jess snapped back. "The reason. Around our place all Pop and my brother Clem, even Mom, thought about was the price of pigs and whether it would rain."

"A man," said Em, sarcastic, "can't spend his time tramping around the world. Someone has to stay put, farm, and grow things."

"Sure. I may go back to the farm myself—someday. But my tramping, as you call it, hasn't done me any harm. All Pop, Clem—and you, ever had against me is that I wanted to get out for awhile and see something—not stay here and mossify."

He stood up then and his eyes were flashing, and he walked out and left his dessert.

"Gee," I said, "you made him mad. Maybe he'll quit."

"Oh shut up!" said Em. It was the first time she'd ever snapped at me, and she looked like she was ready to cry.

But Jess didn't quit. He kept on at the hay and what surprised me most, Aunt Em started to treat him better. She was at least civil to him. But now it was Jess's turn to act cool. This went on for three, four days, and then the haying was finished. Jess drew the mower and the rake up into the yard.

A T suppertime, Aunt Em had on her prettiest dress, and whenever Jess asked for anything she'd pass it quick. She even smiled for him. I thought maybe she was doing it so he'd stay for harvest. The way Jess was acting though, never saying a word, I was afraid she'd started too late.

I finished first and went down by the barn. I was sitting on the ground playing with the cat, tickling her tummy, when I saw Jess coming. He was walking fast and when he got closer I thought he looked like he had that other night at the table. I spoke to him. "What's your hurry?" I said.

He stopped. "Nothing. Just want to get my stuff together. I'm leaving."

"Leaving!" I forgot about the cat and stood up. "But Aunt Em still needs a man for harvest."

Jess cut in. "I stuck till the hay was done—that was enough. Em needs a man all right, but she'll never get one so long as she acts like she does." He walked off then.

I hurried to the house, Aunt Em was sitting at the corner of the table with her face down on it, sobbing. I put my arm around her shoulders. "What's the matter, Aunty? Did Jess—"

"He's leaving—and it's my fault. When he'd finished eating, he just said, 'you can leave my money at Clem's.' He walked out; didn't give me a chance to—to." She was crying harder than ever.

"Gee Aunty, is there something I can do?"

"Yes. Go-go away and leave me alone."

I went. I started back toward the barn, wondering about how funny people are. If Aunt Em had wanted Jess to stay, why hadn't she been nicer to him sooner. I was sitting on the ALWAYS LOOK TO IMPERIAL FOR THE BEST



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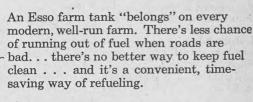
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## Sun Life Ups Policyholder Dividends to \$24½ Million

Continues to sell more life insurance than any other Canadian company—\$576 million new business written in '53

A higher dividend scale which for the fifth consecutive the fifth consecutive year will again reduce the cost of life insurance for the holders of two million Sun Life of the holders of two million Sun Life of Canada policies, is announced by George W. Bourke, President, in his Annual Review of the Company's business for 1953. Dividends to policyholders during 1954 will amount to \$24½ million, 11% more than in 1953 and an increase of more than 50% was the lest five years. Most policyover the last five years. Most policyover the last live years. Most policy-holders carrying participating plans with the Company will benefit by this increase, with the largest payments being distributed in respect of policies longest in force. New Life insurance longest in force. New Lite insurance issued during the year amounted to \$576,946,000, an increase of \$31 million over 1952, and the largest amount for the year of any Canadian life company. New Group insurance included in the above figure amounts to \$170 million, an increase of more than \$5 million over the previous year. This million over the previous year. This rising volume of business was spread over world-wide territory in the nearly 30 countries covered by Sun Life

In his survey of the figures for the year, Mr. Bourke comments on the manner in which life insurance meets the responsibilities of its purpose. The Sun Life of Canada, he said, has paid \$2,729,000,000 in benefits since the first policy was issued in 1871, and during 1953 no less than half a mil-lion dollars was paid out by the Com-pany each working day. Total amount paid during the twelve-month period was \$125,057,000.

#### **GROUP BUSINESS** UP 17%

New annuity contracts during the year included individual annuities and group pensions guaranteeing payments of more than \$4 million per annum. Total annuity payments to be made by the Company either immediately or in the future, through group pension plans and individual contracts, increased to \$126 million per annum. Total Sun Life insurance in force at the end of 1953 a mounted to \$5,678,000,000. Group insurance included in this figure is \$1,751,000,000, an increase of 17%. The growth of Group insurance and pension plans reflects the business and industrial explicit of the statement of the pansion of recent years during which time the Company, a pioneer in this form of insurance, has retained a leading position, protecting many hundreds of thousands of employees of business and industrial organizations throughout North America.

The total amount of life insurance and annuities in force in the various

countries in which the Sun Life operates is now: Canada, \$3,334,035,000 or 45% of the total; United States, \$2,628,581,000 (36%); Great Britain and other Commonwealth Countries, \$1,169,339,000 (16%); elsewhere throughout the world, \$215,015,000

Total assets of the Company reached \$1,829,790,000 at the year end, being an increase of \$87 million during the twelve-month period. These assets, carefully invested and well diversified, are made up of: Bonds—Government, Provincial and Municipal, 28.7%; Bonds—Public Utility, Industrial, etc., 41.6%; Preferred and Common Stocks 6.0%; Mortgages 14.4%; Cash and Miscellaneous, 9.3%. The interest rate corned on the Company's funds durated to the Company's funds durat earned on the Company's funds during 1953 was 3.90% as compared with 3.84% in the previous year, an increase for the fifth consecutive year.

#### LIFE INSURANCE AIDS HOME BUILDING

During 1953, the Sun Life bond investment was increased by more than \$52 million, mainly in the inthan \$52 million, mainly in the in-dustrial and public utility fields. The amount of mortgage loans expanded by almost \$30 million making a total mortgage investment of \$262,960,000. Of this amount, \$176 million is invested in 41,700 home mortgages. During the last eight years, the Sun Life has loaned \$335 million on mort-

Discussing the function of life insurance as reflected in the continued progress of the Sun Life, Mr. Bourke mentioned that life insurance ownership today is more widespread, and on a larger scale, than ever before. on a larger scale, than ever better. Canadians now own more than \$20 billion of life insurance, more than double the amount at the end of World War II. However, the amount per capita is not yet sufficient to give fully adequate and necessary protec-tion, and there is still great need for the average family to own a larger amount of life insurance. "Time has proven that it is only through life insurance that the majority of indi-viduals can meet the problems which death and old age create in loss of income," summed up Mr. Bourke. "There is no substitute for life insur-

A copy of Sun Life's complete 1953
Annual Report to Policyholders, including the President's review of the year, is being sent to each policyholder, or may be obtained from any of the 100 branch offices of the Company throughout North America.

running board of the car when Jess came and dumped his stuff into the back. We shook hands, then he drove

This time I ran to the house. Aunt Em had stopped crying and was washing the dishes but her eyes were still red. "Aunty," I said, not sure how to start, "Aunty."

"What do you want? Why can't you leave me alone?" Her chin started to quiver and big tears formed in her eyes. She wiped at them with her hand. "Go and play."

"Aunty, if you want Jess to stay, you can still ask him."

"He's gone." Her voice sounded flat. "He won't go far," I said, grinning. She looked at me, puzzled. "Not

"No, not far. I'd say around the first bend in the road. That car won't take him any farther."

Her face sort of lit up. "I fixed it," I said. "I put some clay in his main gas tank."

She got the idea fast. She grabbed me, kissed me hard on the cheek, then she was gone. I went to the door, pulled the screen tighter. Aunt Em was running down the road like she was sixteen.

#### B.C.'s Junior Forest Wardens

More than 20,000 boys have been trained as conservationists, and to guard the vast forest resources of British Columbia

#### by ROBERT FRANCIS

OE L'ORSA, an eager young fellow who lives in the small town of Smithers, in central British Columbia, was out in the woods with a group of his chums, trudging along a forest trail in Indian file. Joe was leading a training outing of Junior Forest Wardens.

As they moved through a sloping glade Joe smelled smoke. In a few minutes it was thicker. Soon the boys could tell the direction from which the wind brought it, and they quickened their pace. '

Half-a-mile further on they knew they had discovered a forest fire. The smoke was heavier now, and they could see flames creeping through the undergrowth.

With the fire pinpointed, Joe knew what to do. He ordered two of the boys back to town at a jogtrot to report the outbreak. The rest of the patrol he took to the lee of the fire to avoid the smoke and get out of the path of the fire. The blaze was already too large for them to make a frontal attack and try to cut a firebreak with the few hatchets among them. But they kept busy controlling spot fires started by blown sparks and doing what they could to control the flank of the fire.

In Smithers, the messengers reported the fire, its location, its size and the direction of the wind which was quickly whipping it into a greater

The ranger ordered out portable fire-fighting gear, and within an hour, volunteers, aided by the Junior Wardens, were cutting firebreaks and manning portable pumps, while they awaited the arrival of bulldozers to help in the job.

In a few hours the blaze was controlled, and the forest ranger credited Joe L'Orsa's quick action with preventing an outbreak that could have destroyed millions of feet of valuable

All over the province, such incidents are repeated every summer, as the 6,500 members of the Junior Forest Wardens put their training into practice.

INCE the Wardens were founded Since the waters were than 20,000 24 years ago, more than 20,000 youngsters have passed through their ranks. The keynote of their training is conservation of natural resources.

In learning to prevent and fight forest fire they are learning to guard B.C.'s first industry, on which many of them will depend directly, or indirectly, some time in their lives.

While only a few may go on into professional forestry, the Canadian Forestry Association and the timber



Junior Forest Wardens gather around a campfire in the woods at lunch time.

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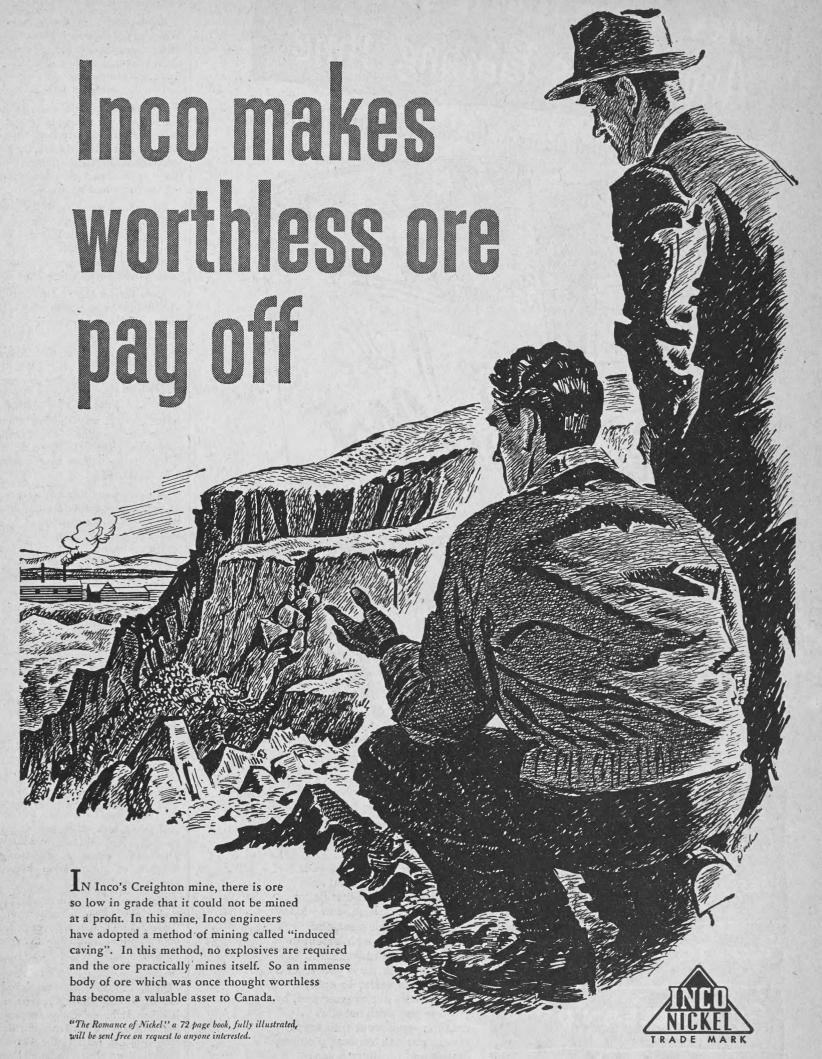
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operators who sponsor the organization say that their training stays with them, and that they remain conscious of the importance of conservation all

Indeed much of the value of the Wardens lies in passing along the word on conservation and fire prevention, to their parents as they describe their training outings, and to their friends and adult colleagues later in life.

The training itself, indoors in the winter and at camp in summer, is enough to delight any boy. Under the Chief Warden, Bill Myring, the young-sters learn all those things that are close to the heart of a kid who likes the outdoors and nature.

First they learn how to act in camp, how to make a bough mattress, start a campfire (and put it out), blaze a trail, cook a breakfast that will stick to the ribs, and clean the pots and pans when they get through.

Then there's the real forestry stuff, identifying trees, shrubs, flowers, and birds, too; how to catch a fish for lunch, or stalk a deer.

They discover that the wild creatures of the forest, the birds, bears, squirrels, the fish in the streams, and the farms irrigated by the forest watershed, would not exist without the forest. In this way the importance of forest conservation is conveyed to youngsters through the drama of nature itself, as they see it enacted in a familiar area.

The Wardens learn how to survive in the outdoors, too, finding direction with a watch and matchstick, building shelters and identifying edible berries and mushrooms. They are taught first aid and elementary surveying.

Then come fire-spotting and reporting, handling portable pumps; and with this the use of signalling, with semaphore, portable radio and telephone gear. It is these skills which have been used often at critical moments, as Junior Wardens helped fighting forest fires. As Joe L'Orsa's experience at Smithers showed, their training has paid off usefully at many dramatic moments.

Many a boy in British Columbia has seen a forest fire rip out of control through the woods around his home, killing and panicking the birds and animals, ruining the watershed that served his father's orchards, or destroying the raw materials for the pulp and paper and other products which his province exports all over the world. To these youngsters, the study and practice of conservation becomes a personal matter.

They soon can understand that the timber destroyed annually would produce 300 million board feet of lumber, enough to build 25,000 average size

THE brilliant green and red uniforms of the Wardens are a familiar sight in many communities. Some of the groups have started their own projects, such as the Wardens at Powell River, who developed a nursery raising 5,000 seedling trees annually. This sort of scheme, forestry men say, is the start of understanding the intelligent use of natural resources.

At the Junior Wardens' principal camp, Lighthouse Park, which consists of 185 acres of wooded area near

Vancouver, instructors like Bill Myring, Don McCuaig and Dick Lystu, all former Wardens, take groups through a two-week course touching every aspect of woodlore and fire prevention.

Passing through various stages of training-he can be in the Junior Wardens from ages 10 to 16-a boy first earns his Junior Forest Warden Badge. After more advanced instruction and practice he can gain the Green Tree, the Silver Tree and finally the Gold

This training, forestry men believe, is partly responsible for the fact that fires started by human carelessness have been cut by one-fifth in the quarter century during which the Canadian Forestry Association has been trying to eliminate forest fire. The Association regards the Junior Wardens as one of the mainstays of this

As their part in keeping the boys eager about their important job, Bill Myring and his assistants make instruction periods and camp programs busy and varied. There is never a moment of boredom, for there is always another subject which needs to be studied; and as for the boys, nothing is too much trouble for B.C.'s Junior Forest Wardens, if it helps to guard a \$500 million industry and keep their wooded province green. V

#### **Spring Floods And Soil Erosion**

Two pictures indicative of the damage resulting from uncontrolled spring flooding and accompanying soil erosion

by MAUD STRIKE

OWEVER rich and fertile soil may be, erosion can ruin it as a creator of the good crops we must grow to provide food, both for the nation and the world at large. Yet every spring come what may, we see some of our richest topsoil being transported to areas where it is either of no use to us, or where the soil is already sufficiently rich, that the rich extra portions the flood brings its way, are not required.

Where land is flat and level, the water subsides slowly, without eating away the precious topsoil, but where land is rolling, and there are many draws, it is quite a different story. Here one sees rivers and creeks in miniature, as the spring run-off races toward the leveller land below, or into rivers and creeks that may be

Sometimes, if the run-off be light, the gullies created by the swiftly moving water are not as deep. Here the field can be worked more easily and brought back to normal, though, of course, whatever top soil has been washed away is irrevocably lost to the farmer. In the deeper gullies the loss is greater, and they are not as easily worked over and smoothed out so they can be sown to grains.

One of the accompanying pictures shows a spring run-off rushing down a ravine, eating away the topsoil as it



Here is a rush of water that eats soil as it goes.



A creek is overflowing here from the melting of snow.

goes, and developing into a miniature creek at the same time. One picture shows what is normally an ordinary creek, but which, during spring floods, goes rampant and can be seen rushing across a fairly well-made road, eating into it and rendering it for a time unsafe for travel. Snow from the adjoining fields created this river-like appearance. This snow might just as well have been kept on the fields where its moisture content was most needed. Because of the rolling and hilly nature of the surrounding countryside, however, there is no way now of doing this. Perhaps if more trees had been left standing, the soil erosion might not have been so great. Some of the land would have been untouched by the plow; and water cannot eat into virgin sod as readily as it does into cultivated soil.

Much remains to be done to curb soil erosion as we experience it today. Scientific methods of farming are a long step in the right direction, but if the thoughtful public can be persuaded to become interested, much more can be done to keep our country rich and fruitful, and prevent it from becoming a barren waste as so many lands have tended to become in bygone centuries.



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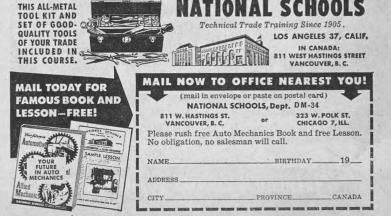
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#### A Nesting Platform

by KERRY WOOD

FIRST thing at dawn on a May or June morning, Pa Robin starts singing, and Ma Robin starts feeding the big-headed youngsters in the nest built on a nesting platform.

Unless there are lots of trees around your home, the robins and phoebes will thank you kindly for providing



A fine family home.

them with nesting platforms. It is the simplest of all artificial bird homes to make, consisting of a piece of board measuring approximately six inches square. Nail it to a supporting piece of wood the same size, with a triangular wedge underneath to make sure that the nesting platform won't sag when the birds start building.

The platform can be called finished right then: but if you want to get fancy, tack a couple of thin slats on the sides of the platform or put one piece across the front just to help hold in place the robin's bulky mud and grass nest. Sometimes I tack a few shingle nails in a circle around the upper surface of the platform, leaving the nail heads exposed about a quarter inch to help anchor the nest and prevent it blowing off the shelf during windstorms. And finally, paint the nesting platform the same color as the part of the house or barn or garage where you intend to place the finished article. Before nailing it in place, be sure that the spot you have selected is out of reach of cats.

It doesn't hurt to have three or four nesting platforms under the eaves of a house, one on each wall and in a spot sheltered from rainfall. The same number around the barn and a couple at the garage will be sufficient.

Then you'll hear the Pa Robin sing his song, which is really a vocal fence to notify all other robins that the nesting territory near the singer is occupied. Ma Robin lays her eggs and starts brooding, and one morning both birds will be busy with the chore of gathering worms for the young fledglings. Three weeks later, young Master Robin and his sister Robina stumble out of the nest and squawk for attention out on the lawn. And one week later, Pa takes charge of the family, while Ma Robin builds a second nest on a nesting platform to raise another happy family.







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#### Ghost Ranch In B.C.

An eccentric millionaire poured money into a ranch created solely as a hobby, that died with him

by P. W. LUCE

A PENNSYLVANIA Dutchman, who became a British Columbia millionaire by chance, spent \$250,000 in developing a ranch that had no earthly chance of prospering, and is once again the beaver swamp it was a quarter of a century ago. No other rich man has been willing to sink a fortune in this hopeless hobby.

A. B. Trites was the Pennsylvania Dutchman. He was one of the outstanding real estate men of British Columbia for a great many years; and it was said of him that he never parted with a dollar without the greatest reluctance. He was reported to pay the lowest wages this side of the Mason and Dixon line, but he never lacked laborers. He set the best table in British Columbia, firmly believing that a man thought more of his belly than he did of his pocket.

In early life, Mr. Trites was running a small store in the Kootenays. Very cautiously, he grubstaked a prospector who could really show he had something worth while in the hills, instead of a mere optimist's dream. And sure enough he had.

The grubstaked property is now the Pioneer Mine, which has been one of the richest in the west.

Almost overnight, A. B. Trites became a millionaire. He spent the rest of his life making more money, until 1928, when he suddenly decided he'd like to be a rancher. He was then 74.

A beaver swamp, 2,000 feet up in the clouds on the Hope-Princeton road, struck him as having possibilities. He didn't know anything about developing land, but that didn't matter. He could afford a hobby.

THE swamp had been a stopping place in the sixties, when the first trail was cut through, and the rotten relics of the old whisky house were still in evidence. Homesteaded many years later by trappers, the place was sold to Trites for \$5,000 cash, the owner, A. E. Raab, being beaten down from his price of \$7,000.

Mr. Trites brought in workmen—as many as 50 at one time — and ordered them to create an ideal ranch for him. Supplies had to be brought in by packhorse, the swamp had to be drained, the brush cleared, the land plowed, and buildings erected. A sawmill on the place turned out lumber for the huge barns, the blacksmith shop, the imposing family house and the 20 outbuildings.

A waterworks system was installed and a hydro-electric plant put in. Two gasoline engine systems supplanted the electric system, and there was a fully-equipped cold storage plant. Several immense silos were built of concrete, but nobody knows whether they were satisfactory. They were never used.

Every once in a while A. B. Trites would ride out from his home in Vancouver to see how the work was progressing, and to decide where he would spend his next ten or twenty thousand dollars. In summer he would go by auto as far as he could, and then finish the journey by horsedrawn carriage. In winter he used sleighs. The Hope - Princeton road was at that time very much of a daring journey.

This was in the bad depression days. Hold-ups were fairly frequent. Mr. Trites took no unnecessary chances. He nursed a loaded .38 revolver from the outskirts of Vancouver, until he reached the safety of his 14-Mile Ranch, as the place was called. Any wayfarer who wiggled a thumb at him did so in vain.

On the ranch Mr. Trites usually complained that the men were not doing enough work, and he'd show them how hard to work.

It didn't matter to him that he was digging ditches in the wrong place, and that he was wasting time and money. He was enjoying himself, in his own peculiar way.

A FTER a few years, when the 14-Mile Ranch had taken some sort of shape, Mr. Trites imported 100 purebred Herefords from Alberta. These had to be led up and down mountain trails from the Kettle Valley station, and the necessary hay had to be brought in by trucks. Later on, there was considerable difficulty in getting the beeves to Vancouver, and the returns were rather shy of the expenses.

Mr. Trites decided \*to switch to dairy cattle. This was a fantastic notion, for there were no dairy customers for many scores of miles, but the old millionaire brushed this aside as of no importance. He figured that Jerseys were the best milk cows, and to make sure of getting the pick of those on the market, he himself went to the Channel Islands and bought up all the available champions.

The Jerseys came to the 14-Mile Ranch, but Mr. Trites didn't live to see that he was going to lose a lot of money on his importation. He died at 84, and his cattle were dispersed. Nobody else was willing to carry on his fantastic enterprise.

When the war came, 14-Mile Ranch was a logical settlement for some of the Japanese ordered out of the Pacific Coast. About 3,500 of them were dumped on the isolated place, which then became known as Tashne. The industrious little brown men grew lettuce and celery and other green stuff that could be shipped to Vancouver, and they made a real community of Tashne. They put up a theatre, a dance hall, a school, a church, and a community kitchen.

After 1945, the Japanese returned to the coast. Tashne, like 14-Mile Ranch, became a ghost place.

The old beaver swamp meadow, with all the fantastic improvements, was bought by Stanley Trites, a nephew of the old millionaire, who had been working on the place for several years. He got it for a song, but, logically enough, he had ex-



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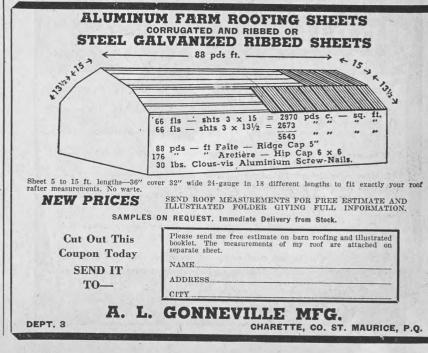
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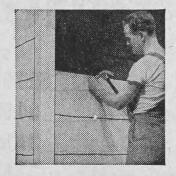
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pected to get it by inheritance. Instead, all he got out of his uncle's will was \$100.

Bit by bit, Stanley Trites disposed of stuff that had cost H. B. Trites many thousands of dollars to haul and install on the ranch. These included tons of plumbing, thousands of feet

of lumber, countless sacks of cement and plaster, miles of wiring, the equipment of eighteen bathrooms and toilets, five or six radios, a monster steam heating plant, and much of the other machinery put up in this most fabulous ghost ranch of western Canada.

#### My Funny Bone

A sense of humor is one of man's saving graces, which, said someone, permits him to laugh at his own feet

by G. M. FORBES

O humorous incidents follow you about, or, should I say, come to meet you? I don't know whether my sense of humor is over-developed, but quite often things happen which strike me as exceedingly funny.

One of the funniest incidents of my teens occurred when I was out riding one day. I was trotting briskly along the road on a small buckskin pony, and leading two other horses, one on each side of my pony. I had a large loop tied in each halter shank, and dropped over the horn of my stock saddle. Approaching along the road was the young man who periodically walked the gas line from Calgary to Turner Valley, and read our meters along the way. He was tall and bronzed-the strong, silent type-and I had a violent, but secret crush on him. On this occasion, I was feeling quite proud of my horsemanship, and felt that this time I would really impress him.

Just as we were a few yards apart, one of the horses went the wrong side of a telephone pole. The sharp jerk on my saddle broke the cinch, my own pony went out from under me, and the two ropes, tightening up on the horn, caught me neatly across the center of gravity, and suspended me high in air. For an agonizing period of time the saddle and I bounced around in mid-air. Unable to swing my weight fore or aft, I teetered in a most undignified manner, until the startled horses released the tension, and I sank to earth. My Appollo, thanks be, was able to maintain a dignified gravity, as he helped me repair the damage: and I remained speechless with mortification until I thankfully fled up the road. Then I burst forth into howls of laughter; and when I arrived home, simply sat and shrieked with mirth, until the entire family gathered about to find out the cause of my hilarity. I don't think I was ever able to make them realize how funny the situation had been, but then I don't suppose I ever told them that I had imagined the gas man to be my big heart throb of the moment.

NOTHER incident of my teens A occurred at a dance one night. I was blessed with a larger-than-average nose, and my partner was similarly equipped. Some sudden noise made us both turn our heads toward each other, and our noses met with a smack! I always thought my partner must have thought me very stuffy, as I didn't even smile, but I knew that if I ever started to laugh, I would end up the cynosure of all eyes as I whooped it up. The fact that he snickered and wheezed in my ear the rest of the dance, did not help me to keep my funny bone under control

My mother and I once visited beautiful Butchart's Gardens on Vancouver Island. At one place in the Sunken Garden was a particularly eye-catching specimen, covered with exceptionally beautiful blossoms. I stepped forward over a garden hose to read the name tag on the plant. A fine spray of water from a leak in the hose spurted up under my skirts and neatly soaked me. I naturally retreated hastily, but was unkind enough to let my mother repeat the maneuver, and had a good laugh at her discomfiture. Some time later, we sat on a bench nearby to enjoy the wonderful display of flowers. Soon a bus load of people came along, conducted by a guide who pointed out the highlights of the garden. He especially indicated the aforementioned specimen, and each member of the tour stepped forward to read the name, and each leaped back in haste, and then tried to look as if nothing was the matter. By the time the last of the party had performed, my mother and I were simply

F course, the life of a country Or school-marm needs the leavening of a lively sense of humor, but it needs to be under very strict control. On one occasion, a small Doukhobor girl appeared at my teacherage, and announced distinctly, "I have a duck for you, teacher. It's a dead one." The latter part of the statement somewhat reassured me, as I had recollections of having been presented with a live hen once before. The small girl dashed back to the cutter and returned with a parcel which turned out to be a beautifully dressed and stuffed duck, all ready for the oven. I always hoped her non-Englishspeaking mother understood how much I enjoyed that "dead duck."

Christmas concerts often produce unexpected humor. At one, my youngsters were acting out the proverbial badly run women's meeting. One girl had to jump up and announce angrily, "I'm going home!" As she sat down again, hard, the legs of her chair slipped over the edge of the platform, and a pair of flying feet were all we saw, as she disappeared with a crash into a small, dark cupboard off stage. When we had extricated her and made sure nothing but her dignity was damaged, audience and cast joined me in a heartier laugh than any other



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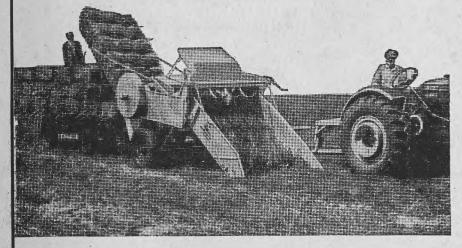
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act had attained. The rest of the program was a howling success.

Then there was the small Dutch girl who invited me to dinner on Sunday, adding that brother John would come for me. "Oh, but I can walk over," I said. "It is such lovely weather, and I would enjoy the walk."

"No," decidedly, "John will come for you. Mother says otherwise you might come too soon!"

Of course, as parents we have experienced many of those delicious moments of unconscious humor which all parents enjoy. For instance, the time our very small daughter made a forbidden noise at the table. "Excuse me, dear!" I prompted, utterly hor-

"That's all right, Mummy," she forgave me graciously, leaving us all completely hysterical.

And the time she announced gravely to the visiting minister that she expected she would dance in a night club when she grew up!

really think, though, that it is as a farmer's wife that my funny bone has had the most scope, perhaps because I have usually been able to give way to my feelings, and really enjoy the situation. There was the time I woke up to find my husband kicking violently in bed. Retiring hastily to a neutral corner, I waited until his activity woke him, and then enquired what his kick was. After a pause, he replied sheepishly, "I dreamed a weasel was after your hens. As it ran by, I kicked at it, and it grabbed me by the toel" Well, I'm glad he guards my beloved hens even in his sleep.

We once had a collie dog who was terrified of thunder and lightning. On one occasion we were absent from home during a violent electrical storm. When we returned, I noticed the lid of the rain barrel was upside down. Mystified, I turned it over, to disclose a shivering and disconsolate dog, sitting up to his neck in water. He must have been so frightened during the storm, that he leaped up on the barrel, the lid flipped over, shooting him into the water, and effectively imprisoning him in the tank. Fortunately, the lid had remained tilted, allowing him breathing space.

The summer we painted the barn seemed to lead to a lot of queer incidents. The end wall looked very high, and as we visualized the scaffold we would need, my husband had the idea of pulling the wagon box up on the hay slings, and standing in it to paint the upper part. Unfortunately the hoist tripped sooner than expected, and the wagon box shot into the loft. We had a dickens of a time lowering it gently to the floor, and then had to practically dismantle it to get it out through the small hand door, and lower it on to the running gear again.

Then we started to build that pesky scaffold. My husband was nailing a plank on the platform above, and as he could not see the nail, we moved the plank aside, thrust his head through between and hammered the spike home. Then he found he had moved the plank back again, and could not withdraw his head. I guess he never understood why I thought it such a joke, as he knocked the plank off, and released his head.

F course a barn means cows, and where there are cows, unscheduled things are bound to happen. The

good man was fanning seed grain, and he nailed a ladder across to keep the cows from the mill. As so frequently happens on a farm, he found himself in need of a little help, so came to the house to call me. As we returned to the granary, we were startled to see one cow galloping down the field wearing the ladder neatly balanced across her neck. Of course the other cows and the dog had to join the parade, and my husband, the youngster and myself brought up the rear. We were quite nonplussed as to how to remove it, as we could not hold her outside and could not get her in the barn wearing it, when she somehow got one end jammed against a hummock, and neatly backed out of it.

One of our neighbors was strolling across his yard recently, complacently surveying his large herd of Holstein cows. His gaze wandered on to his neighbor's field, where a fine herd of Red Polls grazed. Suddenly he was electrified to realize that there among the Red Polls was one lone black and white heifer. Summoning the family, he dashed over to chase her home. She would not be chased. The more they tried to make her go north, the more determined she was to go south. Finally, they got her into a corral, and put a halter on her. Then they dragged her home behind the tractor,

#### Seed Catalogues Are Wonderful!

Continued from page 12

end. It was merely a matter of deduction.

Seeds, my husband reminded me, were planted on the very same principle. You made sure you put the right end of the seed into the ground, covered it with earth—and presto! We just couldn't miss.

Besides, we had already agreed that we should invest our savings where it would bring the quickest and richest return; and where else could we get rich as quick and with less effort as on a farm?

MY husband decided that he would keep his city job for a month or two, just to keep us in ready cash until the profits from the farm started to roll in. And, once this decision was made, we could scarcely wait to spring our surprise on Happy Charlie.

We didn't get a chance to see inside the house before we moved in. That was purely an accident, of course. Just one of those things we couldn't possibly foresee.

We had decided to play it smart right from the beginning—and had our minds made up that we would not buy the property without seeing it first. We insisted. So, Happy Charlie drove us out to the farm.

My first glimpse of the property dampened my enthusiasm a little. The farm was a long narrow strip of wooded swamp—adjoining a thriving cemetery. Happy Charlie considered this a definite asset and explained why, when I voiced a feeble objection.

The swamp assured us of an unlimited water supply. And the graveyard? He gestured expansively toward the headstones and inquired cheerily: "Now, where could you *possibly* find quieter neighbors?" the heifer applying all four brakes every step of the way. Even when they were in their own yard, even into the barn, she fought determinedly. When she was at last safe in a loosebox, the farmer once again crossed the yard, this time not so complacent. Again, he was electrified as he looked over their own herd, and then he turned to his father.

"How many heifers are we supposed to have?" he enquired in stifled tones?

"Twelve," was the reply.

"Well, we have 13 now," announced our neighbor. He entered the house and called us, the nearest Holstein people to the south. Yes, we were short a heifer. We always knew this was an excellent district in which to live, but good as our neighbors have been, this is the first time any of them corralled our straying animals, and had them all ready for us to load up and bring home.

Well, farming has many sides, and some of them are not pleasant ones. Farmers have long been known for a philosophical sense of humor, and as long as we can look for the funny side of each situation, we will survive the difficulties. And so, even if it has caused me embarrassment on many occasions, I am still glad to have my funny bone.

He then ushered us hospitably to the small white cottage. There were no roses. Too early in the season, he explained: and then, when we reached the door, he discovered to his obvious amazement, that he had forgotten to bring the key!

He searched his pockets frantically, with no results. He was so remorseful that we felt obligated to take his word for the cosy interior of the cottage, and buy it unseen, so as not to hurt his feelings. The blinds were drawn—to discourage prowlers, he explained. It was too bad.

But he tried to compensate us for his thoughtlessness, by driving us home through a thriving farming community. It was most enjoyable. On both sides of the road for miles, early potatoes, corn and grain were already springing up, green and lush against the black, well-tended soil. We could scarcely wait to get back to the office and get the papers signed, so that we, too, could get started on a garden.

The first thing we found out about gardening, is that you just can't drop seeds in a small hole in the ground and expect them to grow. First you must hire Happy Charlie's brother to come and plow the ground. He gave us a special rate, because we were friends of "Good Old Chuck!"

Then we had to buy manure from Happy Charlie's cousin—at twenty dollars a load. Then, brother Egbert came back and ran a disk over the whole thing to cut everything up real fine. This cutting-up procedure loosens the ground so the seeds can push their sprouts through easily. It also discourages the weeds, by chopping the weed roots into tiny pieces. However, we happened to have a few billion of them that were very hard to discourage.

After all the above preliminaries we were now allowed to plant seeds.

We learned that as soon as seeds come up, weeds come up also-and

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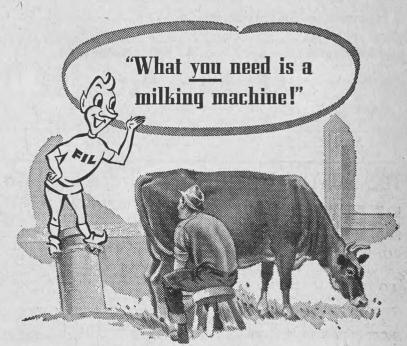
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grow twice as fast. This is not good. Vegetables, to grow, must have sun-shine, so the weeds have to be extracted bodily. This is work that requires both brawn and brain. However, the brain can relax as soon as one has learned to differentiate between weed and vegetable.

When our crop started to show above the ground, big crawly bugs appeared from nowhere, and began nibbling industriously. We shooed them. They nibbled on. It was plain to see that they were hard to convince that they were unwelcome.

Finally, we resorted to poison-for the bugs, I mean. It took bags and bags of poison to completely spray our garden. Then it rained. That was good because vegetables need rain-but it was also bad because it washed off the poison. And, immediately more bugs appeared, accompanied by worms and caterpillars and other weird creatures that are quite unknown to the city

We bought more poison and sprayed all over again.

When our first radishes were ready to eat, I pulled up a huge number and after washing them carefully, bit into a large one hungrily. I glanced casually at the remaining half as I chewed, expecting to see the firm white interior as depicted in the seed catalogue. But, somehow this one was different.

The flesh was streaked with tiny brown furrows, occupied by a very tiny wiggling intruder. I chewed more slowly-speculating as to whether or not this creature was normally that short.

When the vegetables were in full leaf, a swarm of locusts came and ate everything in sight, including weeds. At the end of two weeks and 10 bags of bug killer, the survivors left for greener pastures. They had eaten all the green off our pastures; also off our garden.

ONE day last spring I was again planting in my garden, my notso-small daughter beside me, dropping seeds carefully into the long, straight row. I kept thinking about that first

"Gail," I asked suddenly. "Did I ever tell you about . . . "

"Yes," she interrupted, with typical teen-age rudeness. "Every spring . . . at least fifteen dozen times!"

Well, anyway," I continued unabashed, "you'll have to admit it was odd the way that seed catalogue and the real estate man both happened to pop in the same day."

Gail stopped still.

"Do you mean to tell me," she asked incredulously, "that after all these years, you still don't know?"

I stopped work and looked at her in bewilderment.

"Gosh, Mom, I knew all about that years ago. You see, you were a lot more sick than you realized. Then, when the doctor told Dad it was the country for you-or else . . ." She shrugged her shoulders and spread her hands expressively.

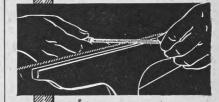
"And so Dad cooked up the seed catalogue idea." She continued dropping seeds along the open row, adding:

. . You know, Mom . . . Pop is really smart."

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Continued from page 15

work quickly, since it is the cheapest hired man that could be employed. The purchase program can be spread over a three-to-five-year period, and by including production-type appliances in each year's acquisitions, it is possible to have a completely modern home, plus a well balanced selection of farm-use appliances.

Most farmers these days, are mechanically minded, and regardless of the type of farming enterprise, operate their own farm workshops. Shop tools and their use in repairing machinery, play an important part in time-saving, whether it be drilling, grinding, sawing or welding. Most of these tools are commonplace on the mechanized farm, and are usually operated by a portable electric motor that can be moved from one job to another. The electric welder may be power-operated from the line, or by engine or tractor, as desired. Here again, the necessity of adequate wiring for lights, tools and welders in the workshop plus protective devices for electric motors, will soon be demonstrated.

THE handling and processing of seed and market grain requires a lot of work, if done by hand. Most equipment for handling, cleaning and treating seed is adaptable to the electric motor; and again, a portable unit that can be moved from one piece of equipment to another, has proven very useful. Grain augers will place grain in bins or trucks, and use about two to four kilowatt-hours per 1,000 bushels. Grain can be cleaned for seed at the cost of one kilowatt-hour per 100 bushels. This is but a fraction of the cost of manual handling, and represents a considerable reduction below gasoline-engine-operated equipment.

The livestock man will find many labor-saving devices available for his use. Feed grinding, which is always a time-consuming job, can be done at a flip of a switch, for a power consumption of one-half to one kilowatt-hour per 100 bushels of grain-and the supply is always fresh. Milking machines for the dairy farm operate at a cost of 100 watts per cow, per day, or, for a five-cow herd, 15 kilowatt-hours per month. This means more time to handle more cows, which will contribute to cash income, or release labor to do other work, which will add to labor income. Cream separators consume about one kilowatt-hour per 1,000 pounds of milk. Livestock water warmers are important to both the dairy and the beef cattleman, in that production depends to a great extent on water consumption.

The poultry house uses a variety of equipment. Lighting, based on monthly requirement per 100 birds, consumes five kilowatt-hours, while brooders operate at a cost of 500 watts per chick. Water warmers will provide temperature control by using one kilowatt-hour per day. Lighting controls in the form of switches add to the convenience of raising poultry with electricity.

Water supply and water pressure systems are applicable to both do-

mestic and farm use. If individual water pumps are used, power consumption for each will be about one kilowatt-hour per day. Water under pressure can be delivered to the household, or to the livestock, or poultry, for two kilowatt-hours per day. These rates will naturally vary with the amount of water used for the various enterprises. The fact that water can be made available in the home means that sewage disposal systems can be installed for complete wash-room and bathroom fixtures.

Domestic or household appliances have been left to the last because, due to their number and variety, it is often

difficult to distinguish between those that contribute to income, those that are luxury items. Personal opinion can classify them one way or the other. Certainly, the refrigerator and deepfreeze units contribute to cash income in food saving and preservation. Such devices as washing machines, vacuum cleaners, stoves and ranges contribute to labor saving, but there are many household gadgets that provide a convience only, to the housewife.

It is possible to have a good rep-

resentation of these appliances on your farm, provided they are put to work to contribute to cash or labor income. The best advice would be to follow a

plan that applies to your type of agriculture, and purchase with care, giving consideration to each appliance as it is bought. The production equipment should pay for the more produc-tive ones and these should be purchased during the first year to start your labor and cash income. Once this is established, your program is well under way and you can go to town with electricity on your farm.

(Note: M. E. Dodds is an agricultural engineer at the Experimental Station, Swift Current, Sask., who has made a special study of appliances for rural electrification .- ed.)

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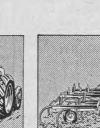
right times through the growing season mean much in crop yield and quality. For Ford and Fordson Major Tractor owners these problems are simplified by the great line of implements available at his nearby Ford Tractor Dealer. Ford Farm Equipment is designed to match the

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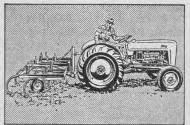
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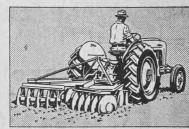
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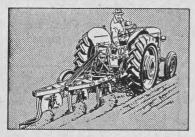


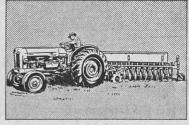
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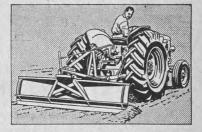
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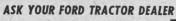






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CANADA GROW



## The Strattons of Langraw

Continued from page 7

was busy with sugar and flour on the plastic-topped table, while Betty darted between the glass-doored cupboards and the large refrigerator, singing a few lines of the song which she was later to give at the concert.

A LASTAIR and I departed to the sanctuary of the fields, lest we be roped in for work in the kitchen. Our walk took us first past the windmill, which pumps the farm water from a 60-foot well, to a storage tank. It has never been known to run dry and gives an ample supply for houses and outbuildings. In the little field next the yard was an assortment of stock, put there for convenience.

The young Shorthorn bull greeted us at the gate with a playful snort. Last year an Aberdeen-Angus bull was used, most of the female stock being then heifers, and the polled bull making for easier calving. But his stock were small, and a change has been made to the Shorthorn to get more growth and bone. The cows, 20 in all, are Shorthorn or Hereford crosses, and about 20 calves are reared per year. The general farm policy is to grow enough food for the cows and sheep, and to fatten their calves and lambs off the farm. The calves are, of course, kept till they become three-year-old bullocks, but the lambs are graded at about 100 pounds live weight, killing out at 50 or 60 pounds.

The old horse grazed in the little field, too. He is used to haul turnips to the ewes in winter, when mud might prevent the tractors from getting to the fields, but he is handy for other odd jobs, too. Here, also, grazed the four milk cows, two cows sucking calves, the two Oxford Rams, two "pet" (motherless) lambs and a ewe with a lamb only one month old. How she had produced her lamb two months after the rest of the flock had finished, was a mystery.

Passing through this little field we came to the wheat, 12 acres of it, well shot and a good crop. This would be cut with the binder, stacked, and threshed as straw was required for bedding or for covering the potato pits. The next field was 40 acres of barley, which would be combined and sold direct, or dried and stored. It might then be sold, or used for feeding to the pigs, depending on the prevailing price. The straw is gathered with a hired pick-up baler and used for bedding.

In the next field, knee deep in clover, 18 bullocks grazed. These are

bought in spring to eat the extra grass, and are fattened during the summer. In this field of 25 acres, the 70 half-bred ewes and their 110 lambs grazed, too. Many of the lambs were already fat and would soon be graded at the auction mart, prior to being allocated to butchers.

At present, in Britain, the Ministry of Food grades and buys all fat stock at fixed prices. These are then slaughtered in Ministry of Food abattoirs, and butchers are allocated their share of the meat or mutton. Many butchers are clamoring for a return to the old system, whereby they bought their own animals in the auction ring, or direct from the farmer.

BUT to return to our walk! The half-bred ewes are a cross between the Cheviot and Border Leicester breeds, having the hardiness of the former and the bone of the latter. When mated with the Oxford or Suffolk Ram, the resultant lamb has a good frame and fattens quickly.

On the other side of the dry stone dyke from the ewes and lambs, was a 12-acre field of potatoes. These are grown mainly to produce certified seed for sale to England, or even to Europe or Africa. The ware is sold to merchants for re-sale to shops, and some is used on the farm. The man and the boy—and the cattleman when there is one—have, as part of their wages agreement, so many hundredweight of potatoes annually, as well as their daily supply of milk and a "firlot" (35 pounds) of meal per month. The brock or chats—the small potatoes, are used for pigs' meat.

Next to the potatoes was a 10-acre field of Mashlum. This is a mixture of oats and beans grown for cattle feed.

The whole farm slopes gently to the north, and has a magnificent view of the Firth of Tay, beyond which, in Perthshire and Angus, rise the mountains of the Scottish Highlands. But the view doesn't make for big crops and the land is exposed to the cold north winds.

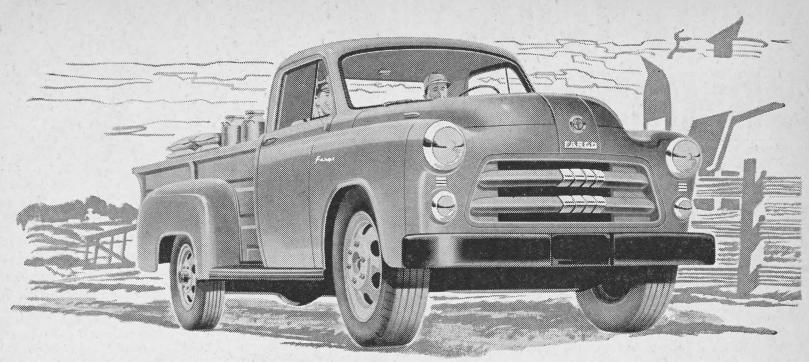
The next field we entered was several feet higher than the last grass field, being about 500 yards further up the hill. Here the clover was not so deep, nor was the sole of grass so good. Even so, in its 30 acres it was supporting comfortably, 25 yearling black cattle and 50 two-year-old sheep, with their 70 lambs. Next to it was an 18-acre field divided into 10 acres of turnips and 8 of Marrowstem kale for winter sheep feed.

In the last field, where we raised and shot a big hare, were the cows and calves.

All being well with the stock, we turned down the hill toward the farm-house. Our conversation, which up till



Some Langraw cross-bred heifers with their calves, and the collie on watch.



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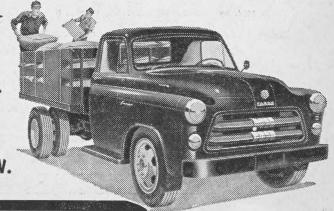
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Betty bakes for the W.R.I. concert, while Mrs. Stratton attends the plants.

now had been of crops and stock, turned firstly to wondering how the baking was progressing, my appetite having been whetted by the walk, and to the Young Farmers' Club, of which Alastair was chairman, and I had the honor to be president. We have both been keen members for many years, but Alastair has carried out the offices of secretary, treasurer, chairman and club leader, with his usual cheerfulness and efficiency.

During the winter he arranged for a valuation contest to be held at Langraw. Stock, crops and implements were on show for the club members to value as they thought fit. Then a well known farmer, with experience in these matters, placed his value on the various items, and a useful discussion followed. This, as well as stock-judging competitions, farm walks, factory visits, club sports and dances take up a considerable amount of any officebearer's time, but somehow Alastair manages to fit it all in and run the farm at the same time. He even found time to visit his brother in Edmonton in August last year. He brought back with him, as well as new ideas gained from first-hand experience of Canadian agriculture, some insight into the running of a 4-H club; and our own Y.F.C. will no doubt benefit greatly from what he saw and heard.

WHEN we reached the farmhouse, the baking was finished and the tea set ready. Mr. Stratton was having a rest after his labors, smoking his pipe and surveying his crops and stock from the front door of the farmhouse. Mrs. Stratton was feeding her Brown Leghorn x Light Sussex hens in the 72cage battery, and collecting the eggs. There are no hens running loose over the yard. Each one is in its cage and must lay for its keep, or off it goes to the butcher. Betty had driven in the four milk cows; and the milking machines saved her time, as she coaxed a new calf to drink from the pail. Beside her sat the 10 farm cats, whose reward for catching vermin is a feed of warm, new milk.

Alastair and I made our way to the pig pens. Here were four sows each with a litter, 33 young pigs in all. He fed these, then showed me with pride the 22 fat pigs ready for the bacon factory. These fattening pigs help themselves from self-feed hoppers and water bowls, so require little attention. The pigs are his own sideline, along with his eight hives of bees, which he regards as a hobby and an interesting

break from the routine farm work.

All the chores finished, the family were able to gather for high tea (a feature of Scottish family life)—and what a tea! Home baking of every description and of a quality hard to beat anywhere. Bacon and eggs, bannocks, scones, cakes, biscuits, jam, honey, butter and cream—all home produced. The stacks of sandwiches and cakes, the outcome of a hard afternoon in the kitchen, were ready to be transported to the parish hall—an old 1914 war army hut.

THEN we arrived at the hall the little car park was already full, and the road was lined with cars. Although only one house and the school are in sight of the hall, farmers, their families and workers were coming from miles around for the W.R.I. concert. The hall was beautifully decorated with streamers and flowers, and the band was playing a lively reel. Betty's song was received with loud applause, as indeed it should have been, since she finds time from her farm duties to be a member of a local choir, which has broadcast on several occasions.

Mrs. Stratton, with others of the organization, helped prepare the tea. Alastair, as master of ceremonies, saw that everything ran smoothly. The young folk danced their reels and country dances—square dancing has not reached this part of the world yet. The old folk sat on benches round the walls watching the dance, listening to the music and talking of crops and stock and the weather, and maybe of the Coronation or the Queen, or the conquest of Everest.

At 2 a.m. the national anthem signalled the end of a gay evening. It had been a success in every way, and there was ample money to take all the old folk for their trip.

When the band had been paid, the lights switched out and the doors locked, we were left standing in the soft moonlight. Away over the highlands the northern lights flickered and whined across the sky. Near at hand an owl hooted, and farther away a fox barked and a corn crake gave its rasping cry. As a ewe called for her lost lamb and a bull gave a challenging bellow that echoed across the quiet fields, we bade each other good night. I could hope for at least six hours' sleep, but Alastair expected only two, before he had to be up and about again, tending his stock.











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#### Water Erosion

Continued from page 9

advantages have been very apparent. Gullies that were forming have been checked and healed over. The topsoil is not disappearing from the ridge tops and the side slopes. Also, it is very evident that higher yields are being obtained on the steep portions of the field than were secured formerly.

Before contouring was started, the crops were always poorer on the slopes than they were on the flatter areas. There is little difference between the yields of the steeper lands and those on the flatter land since contour cultivation was adopted, and crops ripen more evenly, indicating that the water is not running off to any extent from the steeper lands and flooding over the flat land. It is evident too, that not nearly so much water is accumulating in the water courses and causing gullying. The farmers operating both of these farms are fully convinced that contour farming is very beneficial and they would not go back to cultivating up and down the slopes.

Some operators who have not tried this kind of farming, state that they do not wish to, because it is difficult to cultivate around the slopes as it means crooked strips and some corners to work out. Undoubtedly, there are some inconveniences, but those who have operated contour farming, state that these are more than overcome by the more uniform power requirement when tractors are driven on the level, rather than up and down hills. They think that the saving in power more than offsets the trouble and loss of time occasioned by having to work out a few corners or short strips. Many farmers have tried contour farming and have about the same story to tell: they would not go back to up-and-down-hill farming, after they have once adopted farming on the contour. Contour farming is especially applicable on lands that have anything like uniform slopes. Very knobby, hilly land does not lend itself well to contour farming and this type of topography must be handled in other ways. Usually the operator must rely on keeping the land covered with either living or dead vegetation.

LMOST all fields have some kind A of natural water courses, where the run-off water tends to collect and form streams. Frequently, sufficient water collects in these depressions to form gullies. The first method for gully control is to prevent the water from collecting in these water courses, by using the methods already suggested. Where conditions are more extreme, it may be desirable to construct ditches or terraces to carry the water away from such localities, to other areas where it will not be troublesome. Some of the less pronounced water courses can be prevented from gullying simply by farming to encourage as much penetration of the water into the soil as possible, and by preventing the soil in the water courses from becoming bare. It is especially advisable to keep a trash cover on fallows in the depressions, or to keep plants growing in them.

Where the water courses normally collect considerable water, it may be-



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come necessary to avoid cultivating these water courses, and to seed them down to grass. Most fields that have any serious trouble with water erosion will have some water courses that should be grassed down. Before this grassing is commenced, it is well to level the gullies so that they will not form obstructions to crossing with machinery. As soon as this levelling is done, it is advisable to seed grain immediately, to get a cover, and then to seed grass in the grain. If a stand of grass is not secured by the first seeding, it can again be seeded in the stubble in the fall or in the early spring. The stubble may furnish sufficient protection to prevent gullying, until the grass becomes established. In some cases where rather deep gullies have been formed, it may be advisable to build dams, or checks, in the water course. Frequently, posts set in the gullies and the gully filled with straw behind the posts at intervals will stop the flow of water sufficiently to permit the soil to settle from the water, and eventually to heal over the gully.

SOME farms, which have either intermittent or continuous streams running through them, are having good lands destroyed by the streams, which cut into the banks, forming cutbanks which cave off. Frequently, it is possible to prevent this by constructing a water break-head above the place where this erosion is occurring and thus deflecting the course of the stream away from the bank that is being éroded, or it may be advisable to build a protection at the point where the water is striking the bank. These deflecting obstructions are protective. Often these bulkheads can be constructed with a few posts set in, some woven wire fence attached to the posts and some straw, willows, or other materals thrown in between the posts and the bank. In some places it is possible to start willow growth or even some trees to eventually divert the flow of the stream, or to protect a bank. Where extreme conditions prevail, it is well to get the services of someone who has had experience in stream bed control and can give the proper advice as to procedure.

What has been said merely indicates ways that water erosion control may be accomplished. Like all the



Good vegetative covering on the soil prevents both wind and water erosion.

other problems of life, water erosion control usually resolves itself into determining the basic causes and finding a remedy that will correct the condition, or counteract its effect. There are some conditions that are extremely difficult; but almost invariably, any water erosion problem can be resolved and frequently the solution is much more simple than is expected.

Anyone who is troubled with water erosion can well afford to give some very serious thought and study to the problem. Get all the advice possible from any agencies available, and usually a solution will be found that is not only effective, but very practical. Generally, it is a matter of getting the water to soak into the soil where it will produce crops rather than letting it run off the land and destroy the soil. We need to have the water working with us rather than against us.

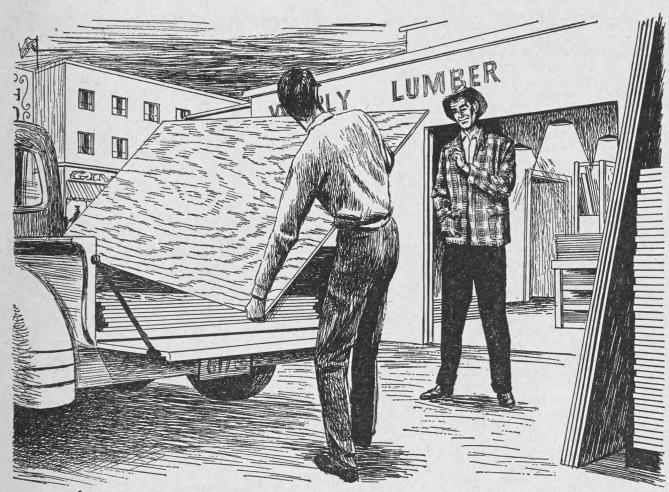
Each land owner could well adopt the slogan "Water erosion on my farm can, and will be controlled." V

#### Wind Erosion

Continued from page 8

Few did 20 years ago, and we have better methods and better tillage machines now than we had then. We must not forget, either, that a farmer who sees a drift starting on his neighbor's farm, which he knows from past experience will eventually involve his land, will exert all the pressure he can to have it checked, just as he would a spreading fire. Municipalities and provincial agencies, too, are much better organized now to cope with such situations.

No, surely, with all the knowledge and facilities we have, we will not be stupid enough to permit a repetition of the soil drifting disaster that we experienced in the drought of the "thirties"



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#### Co-operative **Cost-Cutting**

Continued from page 14

Labor done by members was levied against the man having the work done, at \$1.35 an hour, and the man working was paid \$1.00 an hour, the difference serving to meet the cost of moves and any other losses of time.

If a machine breaks down in the field it is not charged, nor is a member held responsible for breakages that occur on his farm. There is a rule on the books that breakages due to negligence can be charged to the responsible member, but this has never been

It might be expected that there would be some difficulty as to whose work was done first. In order to avoid acrimony, a route was originally prepared, the members' names were put into a hat and work was begun on the farm whose owner's name happened to be pulled out. Members have 16 parcels of land, and the procedure is to jump four every year. If one man is ready and another is not, the machine does not wait. In the spring, a time limit, calculated on a formula based on the man's acreage, is placed on how long one man can hold an outfit.

In the spring, too, seven members are divided into three teams of two men each, with the manager as the extra man. Each team operates one tractor, and keeps it going from around six o'clock in the morning until nine or ten at night. The manager helps where he is needed, and makes any immediate decisions as to where machines should go. This arrangement continues until the first operation on the summer allow is finished, after which the tractors and machinery are available and each member does his own work.

At harvest time, the group splits into two work parties. The acreage just about balances on the three farms to the east, and the four to the west, so



"All right, all right! So you laid an egg!"

each group takes a combine and looks after its own harvesting. The men work in shifts on the combines.

If a decision must be reached that affects the welfare of the co-op, President Jim Biddle will call a meeting of all the members, and arrange for Secretary Armand Keall or Manager Arthur Acaster to provide any necessary information. All purchases made are for cash, right down to such minor items as grease, oil, fuel, paint and

repairs. The decisions to hire a man in 1951, and two in 1952, were made at such meetings, as was the decision not to hire anyone in 1953.

WHAT is the big advantage of a machinery co-op? Members seem to agree that it is a straight costcutting proposition. The individual cost of machinery to the seven members is \$8.50 per acre, about half the cost on farms of comparable size on which the machinery is individually owned.

What are its weaknesses? One of the biggest nuisances is not having a small tractor always on the farm to do small, odd jobs as they come up.

Another problem is that one member may have use for machinery that other members do not want, as in the instance of one farmer who wishes to put up hay, while his neighbor member keeps no stock and has no inclination to put his money into livestock equipment. Another source of weakness is, probably, the desire of farmers to own their own equipment, for no definable reason except that they want to own it.

Why did the nine members who have dropped out leave the Mount Hope Machinery Co-op? In the main, there was no problem of misunderstanding. Four of the original members have retired, and three of these sold their land to other co-op members, so the land stayed in the co-operative. The other five bought more land and pulled out, using their equity to buy machinery for the additional land.

"There is no use saying that the co-op will continue indefinitely, because it might well fold up," said one member. "On the other hand it might continue for a long time. If it does break up it will not be because of disagreement, but because it has served its purpose, helped us to get established and on our feet and cannot now do as much for us as individual machinery ownership."

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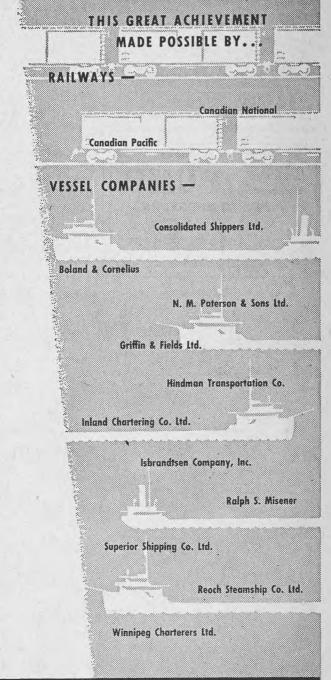
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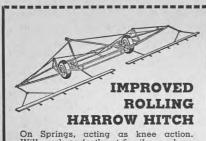
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## What You Pay for Weeds!

Continued from page 11

which compete with growing crops and reduce yields? Some will think I am too conservative, others the opposite, when I use the following formula: Assume that one-third of all crops are weed-free, and that, for the balance, a 25 per cent loss of yield results from weed competition. In using these figures it is understood that infestation of the weedy fields will vary from very light to so bad that some of the crop is not even harvested.

On the basis of 1953 acreages and yields, this formula gives a loss in the three prairie provinces of 186 million bushels, half of it being wheat. Using prevailing prices this grain would have a value of \$200,000,000. As we have already discovered a loss of \$34,000,000 in the form of dockage, this leaves an estimated net loss of \$166 million chargeable directly to the competition of weeds with growing crops. This works out to \$670 per farm.

FOR some years after the discovery in the late '80's, of summerfallowing as a means of combating drought in the Qu'Appelle Valley, little attention seems to have been given to it as a means of weed control. This probably was for the very good reason that weeds were not a serious menace at that time. Over the last half-century, summerfallowing has come to serve the dual purpose of conserving moisture and keeping weeds under control. Over much of the West,

the need for summerfallowing and its frequency would seem to hinge more around weeds than moisture. Be that as it may, weeds can be held responsible for rather more than half the cost of tillage, on over 21 million acres of summerfallow.

No attempt will be made to assess the added cost to farming due to the greatly increased overhead capital outlay under western Canada's system of holding one out of every three acres idle each year. In arriving at an estimate of tillage costs as they apply to fallowing we have assumed that, on the average, four operations are necessary (generally more than four times over are required), two of which can be charged to weed control. George Holmes, Extension Agricultural Engineer for Manitoba, has suggested an acre charge of one dollar for onewaying, 65 cents for cultivating and 80 cents for the disker. These costs cover machinery overhead, as well as actual field costs, including that of the operator's labor.

Applying these figures to the 21 million acres of fallow we arrive at tillage costs due to weeds totalling \$35,000,000, or \$140 per farm.

Weeds have always been considered as rank users of soil moisture and plant nutrients. In an area of limited precipitation, such as much of western Canada, their influence in reducing soil moisture has been very generally recognized. Two leading U.S.D.A. weed authorities state: "The average ragweed plant has a water requirement three times that of corn. One plant of common mustard requires twice as much nitrogen, twice as much phos-

phorus, four times as much potash, and four times as much water as a well developed oat plant." No attempt is being made to assess this loss in dollars as it has, in part at least, been looked after in the previous estimates made.

By far the most common and popular practice of controlling wild oats under present-day conditions is by delaying seeding. After one and sometimes two growths of the weed are killed by shallow plowing or tillage, the land is immediately planted to a quick-growing crop—usually barley. In addition to the cost of tillage involved, there is the hazard of loss due to an unfavorable season for a late-seeded crop. To arrive at a cost figure for this additional tillage, apart from the lowered returns from late-seeded crops, is most difficult.

Of the over 8½ million acres of barley grown on prairie farms in 1953, let us assume that four million were handled as delayed seeding. We will also forget about any loss through lateness of the crop, even though barley last year, in general, yielded less satisfactorily than other crops. For one tillage operation we can add another \$4,000,000, and take no account of other tillage operations, such as that done after harvest, in early spring, and throughout the summer, that might in part be chargeable to weeds.

A LTHOUGH by no means one of the heavy costs, the outlay for weed-control chemicals must not be overlooked. In making an annual survey of the acreage treated with weed chemicals in western Canada, the writer included for the first time, in 1953, the quantities of soil-sterilant



chemicals used mainly in the control of the deep-rooted, persistent, perennial weeds mentioned earlier, as well as the acreage of growing crops treated with "selective" chemicals, chiefly 2.4-D-

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta during 1953 used some 1,600,000 pounds of soil-sterilant chemicalsmostly chlorate and boron compounds. This material and its application meant an outlay of approximately \$225,000.

Just over 12,000,000 acres of crops were treated with selective chemicals during the 1953 season. Materials used and the cost of applying (which includes overhead on applicators), together with the higher outlay of treating 400,000 acres by aeroplane, can be placed at \$9,775,000. The total outlay for chemical weed control amounts to \$10,000,000.

 ${f T}^{O}$  the major losses caused by weeds are to be added a number of secondary ones, which under some conditions can be quite serious. Weeds poisonous to livestock, happily, are seldom serious on crop land. Certain weeds having awns, spines, thorns or burrs can, and do, cause animals annoyance, loss of flesh, lower wool quality, and so on. Weeds such as stinkweed, can cause serious milk and meat taints. Poison ivy and ragweed are examples of weeds that cause untold suffering to many people allergic to such plants.

At times, many weed species can add to the cost of farm operations not unlike a "sit-down" strike. I remember a call not so long ago, from an agricultural representative, who had a farmer faced with such a rank fall growth of dog mustard that he could not make any implement work through it. I suggested mowing. In a wet fall we have all witnessed the slow-down of harvest operations where weeds keep the ripened crop damp. These will serve to indicate a few of the many ways in which weeds take an almost never-ending toll year by year.

Although not taken into account in making the foregoing tabulation, the lowered carrying capacity of pastures and rangeland as a result of weed invasion, is well understood by stockmen. Gardeners and growers of special crops wage a never-ending war on weeds. Governments, municipalities and public utilities on highways, roadways, drainage and irrigation ditches and along powerlines, are all faced with weed problems that call for very considerable outlays. Again, no cost accounting is attempted.

In the table herein have been brought together the major losses suffered by weeds. As already intimated the figures are estimates rather than actual. However, an attempt has been made throughout, to keep on the conservative side. A total annual loss of \$255,000,000 due to weeds is surely a staggering total. Spread among the 248,000 farms in the prairie provinces the toll averages \$1,028 per farm. Based on 1953 crop yields and expected returns, weeds will lower revenues by 21 per cent. With a narrowing margin between the farmer's cost of production and what he is realizing for his produce, together with the better means now at his disposal for combating the weed menace, there never

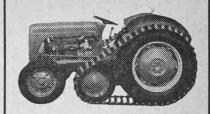
was a better time to intensify the battle against weeds.

(H. E. Wood is secretary-manager, Manitoba Weeds Commission, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.)

#### Atomic-Age Sherlock Holmes

A N atomic-age Sherlock Holmes has appeared - Dr. Herman Yagoda, a radiation physicist. Dr. Yagoda was examining some photographic plates, which had been exposed in a study of cosmic rays at an altitude of 110,000 feet, in a navy research balloon over Texas. Strange markings on the photographic plates were, he felt, due to a radioactive particle which had come from an atomic explosion, obviously either Russian or American. In all probability, the radioactive particle had found its way to the plate by way of the gelatin used in the process of making photographic plates. With this assumption to go on, he deduced that a bit of radioactive dust from an atomic explosion had probably been eaten by a grazing cow, perhaps in India. The particle became incorporated in the bones of the cow and from the bone, passed into the gelatin made from the bones. From the gelatin it found its way into the emulsion made from the gelatin, thence into the photographic plates, thence by transport to the United States, thence to 110,000 feet up in a navy research balloon, and finally to the laboratory where Dr. Yagoda saw it, and afterward wrote a scientific article about it in the British journal, "Nature."

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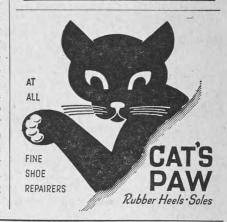
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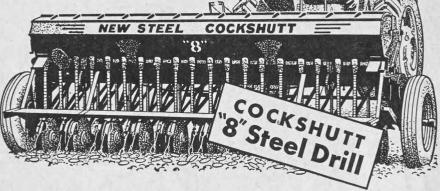




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MARSHALL-WELLS

DEALER

#### Pleasant Farming

Continued from page 13

alone. It takes commercial fertilizer right from the start. But with fertilizer and good drainage offered by the right soil, crop failures are nearly unknown," he says.

Each winter now, 10 or 20 more acres are cleared on this expanding farm. The echoing ring of the axe in the winter air, signifying endless weeks of chopping, has given way to a few short days of the roaring bulldozer. The clearing is done now by a custom crew, at a cost of about \$20 per acre. They leave the brush piled up to dry. By summertime, it is ready to be burned off, making way for the bog harrows. These tear up the land, bring rocks to the surface to be hauled off the following year, after which the virgin land is ready for the one-way and bog harrow again. Then it is put down to its first crop. After three or four more years of crop, when most of the stumps and rocks from the surface have been cleared away, the moldboard plow is able to do a thorough job of turning the soil.

Although grain is the biggest moneymaker on this regular "old-fashioned" mixed farm, several different items contribute to the total farm revenues. Pigs have made their reputation here as bill-payers. Calves are vealed and sold, but no cattle are raised for beef. The cream cheque from 15 high-producing Holsteins comes in regularly, and eggs and poultry are another major source of revenue.

A set of records at the end of the year tells Mr. Ross how much each of these enterprises earns; and to put the laying flock on a better basis, he built a poultry house in 1948. It was typical of his thoroughness that every detail of this new building was planned with the care and enthusiasm of a young man building his own home. He looked at poultry houses nearby, and travelled further afield to see some more. He pieced together the features of each one that he liked, added a few wrinkles of his own, and finally had it planned and built at a cost of \$2,400.

Mrs. Ross enjoys the poultry chores.

He admits it's a generous sum, to accommodate the flock which numbers 330 hens this year. However, the income from the flock in 1950 alone was greater than that. In 1952, the poultry enterprise was not so profitable. One evening while they were away, a

wandering dog found its way into the flock of pullets on range. Its wild instincts carried it jumping and snapping through the flock; and when the Ross family returned home, over 100 of the birds had been killed. Poultry prices, too, stayed low that year. Even so, the family enjoyed a few chicken dinners, had eggs for the table, and took in \$1,119 from poultry and eggs.

The new poultry house is snug in winter. The walls are shiplapped and tarpapered inside and out; and the two pens, which are separated by the feed room in the center of the building, are each 20 by 25 feet. Each pen is lined with flex-board, has a concrete floor, and an outlet flue for ventilation. A row of double windows along the south side of each pen exposes the birds to every possible bit of sunlight, and at the same time supplies extra insulation. Fresh air enters the pens through the small inward-tipping ventilation windows above the storms.

ONE of their own ideas expressed itself in a unique pen above the feed room. This pen, says Mrs. Ross, who looks after the poultry much of the time, has a "social" purpose. In it, 15 or 20 turkeys are raised. Since someone has to look after the laying flock all summer, it's a small extra chore to climb the stairs and feed a few more birds. These go out as Christmas presents to a few friends, and supply their own table with turkey for holiday eating.

The stanchion-type cattle barn which was built in 1942 according to his own design, cost Jack \$3,200 at that time of high-valued dollars. Now on the building program, is a permanent home for the three or four sows that can always be found on the farm.

Even with livestock, which he likes, Jack's attention goes back to the fields that are the source of all animal feed. The Holsteins require good hay and grass; and 37 acres of brome, yellow sweet clover, and alfalfa, fill the bill here. The forage crop is a vital part of his crop rotation. On the light soil, cattle pay off, and grass gives the land a rest from heavy cropping.

Although the district has been lonely and demanding at times, the Rosses have never ceased to like it; and now that more conveniences are opening it up, their enthusiasm is brighter than ever. Electricity came to the farm only a year ago, and a milking machine has lightened the load with the dairy herd. Lights and a new refrigerator, as well as a new electric stove, to replace the old wood range, make life much easier now. Since telephones came into the district four years ago, a means of ready communication with neighbors and distant friends, is right at their elbow.

Son Fred now owns one of the quarter-sections at home, and works with his dad. The other son, Jack, is at university, and Mr. and Mrs. Ross seem ready to start out on new adventures. The brightly varnished new boat, and the shining outboard motor, which are stored in the shed over winter, can only mean they are planning more holidays, and extra hours of relaxation. "The stealthy pike and pickerel which lurk in the quiet water of the nearby lakes, are waiting to rise to bait," says Jack. He doesn't like to keep them waiting.

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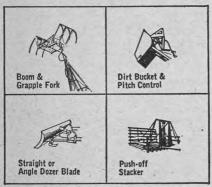
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#### Man-Wise

Continued from page 10

Quesan stared up at the man with yellow, critical eyes. Telford was smiling, and there seemed to be a friendly sort of gleam in his eyes. His voice was deep, with a suggestion of strength, yet kindly and full of understanding. His clothes held the odor of woodsmoke and the clean, pungent tang of the evergreens, the bitter odor of tobacco and the friendly scent of other

In his own way, Quesan considered. His old master was gone. He needed a new master, someone upon whom to center his fierce, proud loyalty and devotion.

He liked this man's firm, friendly voice. He liked the smell of him and the way he held out his hand, not rashly, and yet without fear.

The coldly appraising gaze of Quesan's oblique yellow eyes softened slowly. His lower jaw dropped in a sort of grin, his breath hovering around his muzzle in little white puffs of vapor.

"Good boy!" Telford laughed aloud, and turned to the brother of the man who had been Quesan's master. believe he'll do. I like his looks; I think we'll get along. What's he worth?"

•The men talked for some time in low voices. Something passed from one hand to another.

Thanks, Telford," said the brother of the man who had been Quesan's master. His voice was very grave, "I wouldn't sell a dog of Bob's to just anyone. You got a good dog, and I know you'll treat him the way Bob would want him treated. Here's his harness-you'll drive him back?

Quesan stood quietly while they harnessed him. He liked this stranger who was unafraid, yet who took no liberties. He liked the way he tightened the girth of the harness, and then ran a finger beneath it to make sure that it was not too tight. And he liked the firmness in the man's voice as he picked up the traces and gave him his first order.

"All right, Quesan. Mush on, boy!" That was the voice of a man who could be depended upon in a pinch, and Quesan knew, as every sled dog knows, that there are times when a dog must look at his master for succor.

Quesan glanced back over his shoulder; a quick, inquiring glance to make sure that everything was in order. Then he trotted down the path alongside the house, toward the street, where Telford's team was waiting. Out of the tail of his eye he saw the two men exchange a silent, parting gesture.

S they approached the waiting A team, Quesan's hackle lifted slowly, and his lips drew back in the ready snarl of the husky. A warning rattled deep in his throat.

"All right, Quesan," said the new master soothingly. "Take it easy, boy. You'll get used to them!"

The four dogs of Telford's team watched, silent but alert, as Quesan trotted to his rightful place at the head of the team. He stared over his shoulder as Telford snapped his traces in place, his slanting eyes hard and merciless. A lead dog must be master of his team; if any cared to dispute his position-

But there was no dispute. Telford's dogs were too well trained to fight when in harness-at least, in the presence of their master.

The man walked to the toboggan and knelt, the toes of his soft pacs tucked against the last cleat. He pulled his whip from beneath the lashing-rope and cracked it sharply a foot or so from Quesan's ear.

"Quesan! Mush, boy! Hola!" he cried cheerily. "Mush on!"

Quesan cast a swift glance back at the other dogs, the lead dog's own order to get ready, and snapped his traces taut, the powdery snow flying. The rest of the team plunged into their collars, and they raced down the trail in the burst of speed that a sled dog loves at the start and the finish of a trip.

When they made camp that night, the man deftly removed Quesan's harness and tied him out with no more than a cheery word of commendation.

"Good boy, Quesan," he said softly. "Good boy." That was all.

The other dogs all received a pat, or a good-natured slap on the shoulders, as the man tied them out, as well as a running fire of affectionate comment.

It was almost like old times. Quesan's first master had always talked to his dogs as he tied them out. Quesan missed having his head roughed up a bit, and his tender muzzle stroked,



"It can be turned out at the house, the barn, or right here.

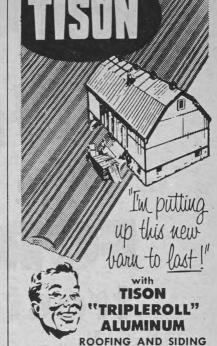
but he was glad that this new master did not try to take these liberties. He could not change swiftly from one master to another. Quesan was a

Telford fed Quesan first, as was his right. The man understood. That was good. He fed his dogs before he got his own meal. That was good. Quesan watched his new master with approval as the man sat down beside the fire to eat his own meal. The man caught the intense gaze, and studied Quesan thoughtfully.

You certainly must favor your father, Quesan," he said, half aloud. You'd pass for a full-blooded timber, at fifty yards. I wonder . . ." He paused, and frowned down into his pan of bacon and fried rice.

"I wonder," he muttered, "how Larry will take to Quesan."

Quesan's oblique yellow eyes lit up for an instant at the sound of his name; then, as the man fell silent, the



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husky turned and began making a nest for himself in the snow.

A BOUT noon the next day the trail cut diagonally across a little lake, and Quesan found himself headed toward a tiny clearing, hacked in the bristling growth of jackpines. In the center of the clearing was a low, broadeaved camp, half buried in drifted snow. One square, blank eye stared out across the lake, and from the gable end a deep, narrow path led out onto the ice and to the black waterhole. A thin blue banner of smoke whipped from the top of the rusty tin chimney.

Without waiting for Quesan to set a faster pace, the dogs behind him broke into a run, and Quesan knew then that the camp ahead was home. He tightened his own traces, and the last few hundred yards the toboggan fairly flew over the smooth ice, with the loose snow whirling behind in a little glinting cloud.

"Ho!" shouted the driver as they dashed up to the trampled snow before the doorway. "Hi, Larry; come look at a real lead dog!"

Quesan and his four companions stopped instantly and squatted in their traces, panting happily. Squint, the wheel dog, took a perfunctory snap at Tommy, the first dog in the swing, and Telford's whip cracked out a warning within an inch of Squint's ear. Squint glanced back and grinned.

"You old devil!" chuckled Telford. "You're old enough—"

The door of the camp was flung open, and Quesan glanced up quickly.

Larry was taller than Telford, with sharp, deeply carved features and icy blue eyes. His arms and legs were long and he wore his rough clothes awkwardly.

"Hi, Tel," he said. His voice was hard and tense. "What you got there—a wolf?"

Telford strode forward quickly and stood beside Quesan's head.

"No. I got the best lead dog in this part of the country, Larry. Bob Mc-Lain's old leader. Bob got his a coupla weeks ago; stub fell on him and crushed a side in."

"That's tough. Bob was real. Married, wasn't he?" Larry's voice was suddenly likeable; the look in Quesan's eyes softened slightly.

"Yes. His wife's going outside, to her family. I was lucky to get Quesan; they don't come any better. Bought him right, too."

Quesan felt Larry's harsh, unfriendly gaze on him again, and his hackle bristled.

"Tel," snapped Larry, "You know how I feel about those brutes. If that dog ain't half wolf I never saw a timber."

"What if he is a husky? A husky's a dog, not a wolf. You can't tame a timber."

"Tame! Look at him!" There was hate in Larry's voice now. "Look at him! Look at him snarl; see his hackle bristling! And you call him tame!"

Telford moved a bit closer to his new dog, quietly, protectingly.

"He's got sense enough to understand how you feel about him, that's all," said Telford coolly. "If you don't like him, Larry, you won't have to be around him. I'll feed and drive him. Come on, now; don't get your back up about nothing."

The two men stared at each other in silence, while the dogs watched them with mildly curious eyes. Dud, who was always tired, or pretended to be, whined gently, to remind them that he would like to be unharnessed and given the comfort of his kennel.

"All right," said Larry at last. "You keep him. We've teamed together too long to bust up over a husky. Only, remember, Tel, how I feel about wolves or anything that's got a drop of wolf blood. If you'd seen your own brother torn down by a pack of them, and been crippled yourself, you'd feel the same way." He turned and went back into the camp, and Quesan noticed that the man limped very slightly. The door shut with a bang.

"He'll get over that, boy," said Telford softly, as he bent to unsnap Ouesan's traces.

Quesan gazed at his new master with oblique, unwinking yellow eyes. He understood that the tall man who limped hated him; he had seen that in his eyes. And he knew that his master had defended him against another man, his partner.

Quesan had lost a beloved master . . . and found one.

TELFORD proved to be a poor prophet. The weeks went by without bringing Quesan and Larry closer to an understanding.

Of course, they met only once a week. For five or six days Telford and the dogs were out on the trail, making the rounds of his trapline; then they would be back at the headquarters camp for a couple of days before starting out again.

Larry glared at Quesan every time his eyes fell upon the dog, and under that hateful stare, Quesan's hackle rose and his dewlaps drew back, quivering, to bare his ivory fangs.

Quesan and Telford were good friends now. The man roughed the husky about the head good-naturedly when he harnessed or unharnessed him, and sometimes when he was



"Why must he always be breaking up our happy home?"

breathing the dogs on the trail, he would walk up and scratch Quesan's head on that delicious spot between the ears.

At the same time, Quesan learned quickly that Telford's whip could sting keenly on a lazy flank or rebuke instantly a hesitating obedience to any order. They were friends, these two, yet the man insisted upon his mastery, and so held not only the affection, but the respect of the husky.

They worked hard. The thaw was not far off, and Telford was eager to



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put his good share of the fur into their common fund.

Telford liked the silent, familiar trails, he liked the majestic grandeur of the bush and its white, waiting lakes. He liked the feeling of achievement, of a hard day's work done well and briskly, when the shadows grew long and blue on the snow, and he could tie out the dogs beside a lay-over camp and take it easy for an hour or so before turning in, soaking up the warmth of a sheet-metal stove.

He was coming to one of his layover camps now: a tiny, crude affair, not more than ten feet square, with a thick roof of mud from the shore of the lake.

"Hi-ya, Quesan!" shouted the man encouragingly. "Hit 'er up!"

Quesan lunged forward, breaking into a run, the rest of the string close on his heels. They tore up to the camp and stopped suddenly in a tangle of traces, grinning happily, their breaths steaming white around their frosted muzzles.

When the dogs were cared for, the man drew his axe from under the lashing-rope and prepared to split some kindling for his fire.

The axe, handled carelessly in mittened hands, struck a frozen knot in an up-ended stick. Before the man could arrest the flying blade, the bright, sharp steel sheared viciously through pac and heavy woollen socks, and Telford uttered a quick gasp of agony.

He dropped the axe and limped hastily toward the toboggan. A broad, jagged streak of scarlet followed him across the white snow.

Jerking off the tarp, he searched hastily for his pack, found it, and staggered with it into the camp. He ripped off the bloody pac and the sodden socks, and poured black, odorous antiseptic into the gushing wound. He groaned as the powerful stuff bit into the raw flesh, and his nostrils grew pinched and white.

Telford had no bandages, but there were a clean pair of woollen socks and a couple of big bandana handkerchiefs. Soaking them with the antiseptic, he made a sort of bandage, gritting his teeth against the pain. Then he slipped the injured foot into the pac, and went outside and fed the dogs.

Hungry as he was, Quesan did not eat; he watched his master with curious, anxious eyes, sniffing. Something was wrong; the man's grim silence and the sweet disturbing odor of blood told Quesan that. He whined softly, watching intently every move his master made.

Four times Telford made the trip from the camp to the woodpile and back. Then the door closed behind him, and in a few seconds there was the sound of birch bark burning fiercely, the smell of wood smoke in the air, and then the steady hum of flames pouring up the chimney.

Odors of men's food cooking. Slight sound of movements from within the camp. A man whistling softly, to keep up his courage.

All the dogs were restless the following day. They paced back and forth before their kennels, watching the camp with puzzled eyes.

Quesan paid no heed to them. He lay at the threshold of his kennel, his

pointed black muzzle stretched out upon his paws.

He could hear the man moving, at intervals, inside the camp. There was smoke coming from the chimney. And just about dusk, Telford hobbled out and fed the dogs; a rather terrible figure, with a face drawn with suffering.

DARKNESS closed in again, and during the night Quesan slept in a fitful sort of way, resuming his vigil as the sun rose.

Suddenly Quesan pricked up his ears and rose to his feet. At the end of his chain he stood rigid, sniffing the air. Then he threw back his head and howled—a quavering, insistent clamor that came back in racketing echoes from the hills across the lake.

A whip cracked sharply in the distance, a thin, brittle sound in the icy stillness. A voice, hoarse and com-



"This is that stored grain I was telling you about."

manding, rose in a faint, urgent shout. The dogs barked loudly, but Quesan, a strange, flaming light in his eyes, stood tense and silent.

A team of trail-worn dogs appeared around the curve in the trail, heads and tails low with weariness. Behind them, limping more noticeably than usual, was the partner of Quesan's master.

The door of the camp flew open, and Telford called out reassuringly: "Hi, Larry! You got here sooner than I expected."

"I made time," said Larry grimly, with a swift glance at his panting dogs. "What's the matter?"

"Oh, I sunk the axe in my foot."

Larry hurried up to the camp, and the two men disappeared inside. Larry's dogs threw themselves flat, snatching up mouthfuls of fluffy snow, too tired even to quarrel among themselves.

It was only a few minutes before the two men appeared in the doorway again.

"You keep off that foot, you fool," ordered Larry. "I can make it to the post by tomorrow afternoon, and have Doc Davies back here early the second day after that. You get back to your bunk now, will you?"

"Not until I see you get the harness on Quesan," said Telford. "You two don't like each other."

Quesan watched the man who approached him. He made no move, but the long, corded muscles of his throat began to quiver ominously as Larry came close.

"Quesan!" called Telford warningly.
"Cut it! Behave, now!"

The rattle died in Quesan's throat.

Rigid and tense, he let his master's partner slip on the harness.

Larry hastily harnessed the rest of the dogs and snapped them, one at a time, to their toboggan. Cautiously, his whip ready for instant use, he led Quesan last of all to his place at the head of the team.

It took but a few seconds for him to unharness his own dogs and tie them to the kennels Quesan and the rest of the string had just vacated. A few minutes more devoted to carrying in huge armloads of firewood and he emerged from the camp, tying the drawstrings of his parka hood a little tighter around his face.

"Mush, Quesan!" he shouted. "Mush along, you ugly brute! Mush!" The lash of his whip cracked like a pistol, close

to Quesan's head.

Quesan glanced back, his dewlaps twitching, his long ivory fangs bared and dripping. Then, with a sudden lunge he threw himself forward, and they raced down the trail, out onto the lake.

"Haw, Quesan! Haw!" The long lash of the whip cracked close to Quesan's right ear.

Quesan turned swiftly to the left, angling off across the lake, and as he turned, he cast a glance back over his shoulder. There was a light in the oblique yellow eyes that was not good to see.

UST before dusk it began to look like snow. The air smelt of storm.

Before morning, it broke — the proverbial big storm that usually comes shortly before the first thaw; winter's last brutal gesture.

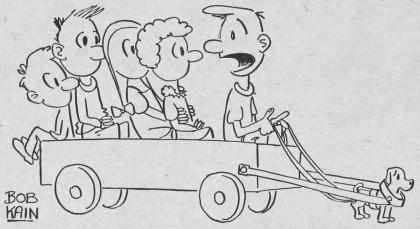
The world disappeared in the thick smother. There was no shores to the lake; ten feet away in every direction there was nothing but the hissing grey snow.

The stuff packed itself into the coats of the dogs, into the crevices of their harness; into every fold of the man's clothing. Blasts of wind rocked them, buffeted them, almost swept them

More frequently, as the minutes went by, Quesan felt the added drag of the man's body on the toboggan. He was riding now almost as much as he was walking. After a time he rode more than he walked.

jerked tight and the man stumbled

He stumbled ahead of them and broke a ragged trail over a portage.



forward.

"Hold on tight everybody . . . just in case he starts with a jerk."

from their feet. But they kept on, with only brief pauses.

About noon they paused for lunch in the lee of a blow-down. It was poor shelter, but the man managed a fire and pannikin of scalding tea. His hands trembled as he lifted the steaming fluid to his lips, and his face was haggard.

Quesan felt the weariness in the man's voice. He glanced back over his shoulder as the team started, and saw the man sway in his tracks. The tailrope, wrapped around his left wrist, When at last they won through to the smoother going of a lake, he halted the team and threw himself on the toboggan with a groan.

After a while he started the dogs again. "Mush!" he cried. "Mush! Tenmiles more. Mush!"

The team moved on, wearily, through the howling storm. There was no guiding voice from behind, now, but Quesan knew where he was. His old master had taken him through this country many times.

There was a big camp, and a num-

ber of smaller camps, on the shore of this very lake. Not close, but not far. He pointed his nose into the driving snow that made it so hard to breathe and headed straight for those camps.

Quesan was so weary that his hind quarters trembled. The dogs behind him were snarling and snatching at the snow on either side.

Before them the snow grew deeper. Quesan cast about, from one side to the other, seeking better going; and then, from sheer inability to go any further, he stopped and turned his tired head toward the toboggan.

A long, white bundle on the toboggan stirred uneasily.

"Mush!" commanded an uncertain, sleepy voice. "Mush, you wolf . . . mush!"

Quesan struggled forward, but the other dogs had thrown themselves onto the snow, panting.

There was nothing he could do, so Quesan squatted in the snow and waited.

The storm roared on, and still the man on the toboggan did not move.

The dogs, freshened by the halt, became restless. They moved in their traces, whining, looking back. Squint, the wheel-dog, began chewing on the frozen leather traces of the dog ahead. Squint was an old sledge dog; he knew that when his master would not or could not help him, he must help himself.

He severed both the traces, turned, and cut the traces that held him to the toboggan. The other dogs, snarling and snapping and fighting, cut themselves



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free. Then, the frayed ends of their traces dragging, each turned and disappeared into the storm.

When all four of them had gone, Quesan turned and slowly circled the toboggan. Down the wind the scent of the man he hated, and who hated him, was rank in his nostrils.

He was very close to the toboggan now, and as though the figure felt the piercing gaze of those slanting eyes, it stirred and fumbled awkwardly.

"Might . . . might have known," whispered Larry, "wolf . . . would get me . . . in . . . in the end. The . . .

He tried again for the gun, but his numbed arms would not obey him.

Quesan, very slowly and cautiously, drew still nearer . . .

THEY found them there together. The man stretched out on the toboggan. The husky stretched out close beside him, between the man and the wind.

Together they hurried them back to the post. Quesan was weak the next morning, but otherwise entirely recovered. It was two days before the man got out of bed.

The first thing Larry did when he got into his clothes again, was to limp out to the kennel where Quesan was tied.

"You're all right, Quesan," he said softly. "You're all dog. Sled dog.'

Quesan looked up at him silently, while Fortin, the factor of the post, came strolling up.

"Did you a good turn, that husky,"

commented Fortin. "If he hadn't kept you warm while we were back-trackin' the rest of the string that came wanderin' in here out of the storm, you'd been stiff when we found you."

"I know it. Do you suppose Davies and Jacques got through to Tel all right?'

'That pair? I'll say so. Go to the North Pole in a couple of weeks, if there was a sick man there for Doc Davies to putter over. You know him. Fortin nodded to Larry and sauntered

Larry turned to Quesan again, and came a step closer, holding out his hand.

"Good boy, Quesan," he said softly. "I was wrong about you being wolf."

Quesan's ears flattened, and the yellow, oblique eyes grew cloudy. His hackle bristled, and a soft bass growl of warning fluttered in his throat.

He could not leave a man to his fate, even a man he hated. Men were men; they were vaguely like his master. They were . . . Well, they were men. And Quesan was a dog, companion to men.

A dog. But a husky.

The coaxing hand of the man who was the partner of Quesan's master came nearer, and the growl in Quesan's throat deepened. His dewlaps twitched back in a snarl.

Baffled, the man drew back his hand, turned slowly away. Quesan gazed after him with oblique, unblinking yellow eyes.

He had affection and loyalty in him, but they were for one man.

One man.

#### **Bear Theories** And Bear Facts

How to behave in grizzly company when you don't know what the bear will do

by G. E. VALENTINE

F a grizzly bear attacks you, can you save your life by playing dead?

That makes an interesting armchair discussion, but to John Hughes it became a life-and-death reality. A prospector for the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, he was hiking through the Tweedsmuir Park area of northern British Columbia one peaceful summer morning, long before Kitimat was thought of, when, over a little rise, he came suddenly face to face with a grizzly.

Instantly the bear charged. Hughes was knocked down and bitten viciously. Unarmed, he felt that his only hope was to lie as limp and unresisting as possible, but he expected any minute to receive a through ticket to eternity. He hardly knew when the mauling stopped, and for a long time after he dared not move a muscle lest the bear was still near.

When he did struggle up to a sitting position, he found one side of his face a bloody mush; he could stick his tongue out through his cheek. There were deep claw gashes all down one side, several fingers were chewed to a pulp. His clothes were sodden with blood, he felt weak and sick, and he was some eight miles from camp and

Somehow he got there. The miners at camp gave him first aid, then he was taken 60 miles in an open boat, and 42 miles more in an open car over rough roads to the United Church hospital at Burns Lake. Arrived there, Hughes, who had endured the long trip heroically, collapsed and began to sink. The hospital staff did all they could, but his life seemed ebbing away. They wired the C.M. & S.

The company promptly sent a pontoon-equipped plane to fly Hughes the 600-odd miles to Vancouver. First the plane had trouble taking off the lake, then they ran into the smoke of a big forest fire that obscured the entire view, but finally Vancouver was reached and the facilities of a big city hospital saved Hughes' life.

His playing 'possum when the bear attacked had paid off; but only by a very narrow margin. More support is given by Hughes' experience to another theory; that a grizzly will attack man without provocation. It seemed pretty clear proof of that-until I talked to a young fellow working for the International Salmon Fisheries Commission.

With an assistant-let's call them Bill and Frank, since they prefer anonymity-he spent some time in the

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If your family enjoys whole-wheat bread, give them not one but three treats next time you bake! See how Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast helps you to serve a variety of tempting things with no extra trouble. When you bake at home, make sure you have Fleischmann's on hand.

#### Basic WHOLE WHEAT Dough

Scald

33/4 cups milk 3/4 cup granulated sugar 41/2 teaspoons salt

1/3 cup shortening

Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm. In the meantime, measure into a large bowl

3/4 cup lukewarm water

1 tablespoon granulated sugar and stir until sugar is dissolved. Sprinkle with contents of

3 envelopes Fleischmann's Fast **Rising Dry Yeast** 

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well. Stir in lukewarm milk mixture.

6 cups whole wheat flour and beat until smooth and elastic: work in

4 cups more (about) whole wheat flour

Turn out on board sprinkled with whole wheat flour and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl and grease top of dough. Cover and set dough in a warm place, free from draught, and let rise until doubled in bulk. Turn out dough on lightly-floured board and knead 10 minutes. Divide into 3 equal portions and finish as follows:



#### 1. WHOLE WHEAT BREAD

Shape one portion of dough into a loaf and fit into a greased loaf pan about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Grease top. Cover and let rise until just doubled in bulk. Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°, 35 to 40 minutes, covering loaf with heavy brown paper after first 15 minutes of baking.

#### 2. PAN BUNS

Cut one portion of dough into 16 equal-sized pieces. Shape each piece into a smooth round ball and arrange in a greased 8-inch square cake pan. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°, about 30 minutes, covering buns with heavy brown paper after first 15 minutes of baking.

#### 3. SALAD OR WIENER ROLLS

Cut one portion of dough into 12 equal-sized pieces. Shape each piece into a slim roll 4 to 5 inches long. Place, well apart, on greased cookie sheets. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°, about 20 minutes. Split rolls and fill with salad or heated wieners.

fall of 1943 tagging and counting salmon in the Bowron Lake country. Bears are numerous there—the local name is Bear Lake—and Bill had several encounters with them. Notably one nerve-wracking game of hide-and-seek in the thick bush during which he fired 17 shots trying to discourage a grizzly from attacking him without having to kill the splendid animal.

N occasion arrived when there A was no time for warning shots. One afternoon the men were taking a smoke-break in the shade on a river bank, when they heard a queer clucking noise in the bush behind them. Both rose, automatically picking up the rifles which they never left out of reach; and an enormous grizzly, rearing out of the brush 25 yards away, saw them and charged at once. It was life or death at that close range; both men aimed to kill and the third shot from .303 and .30-06 dropped the bear dead. Good shooting; but for a long time afterward both those young fellows were so shaky they could not have held a rifle steady, to save their

Another clear case of unprovoked attack? The slain bear turned out to be a female; and exploring round the brush whence she had come, the men scared up two cubs.

Maybe other instances of apparently vicious bear attacks are also caused by a mother's instinct to defend her young—only the attackee

may not see the cubs. The bear which so nearly finished John Hughes may have had cubs nearby. Sometimes, too, bears seem frightened by a man's sudden appearance, and attack because they think they are cornered. Possibly bears, like people, get cranky spells when they're irritable "as a human with a sore head." Indigestion from under-ripe berries or over-ripe salmon may make an ordinarily peaceful bear a momentary man-killer.

CONSIDER the queer experience of the northern B.C. trapper named Bird, who was casually surveying his territory one summer day, armed with nothing more than a .44 pistol and shot cartridges.

Did you ever get the uneasy feeling, when you were a kid away from home about dusk, that big fierce things were following you from bush to bush, closer, closer . . .?

Bird got that feeling, and couldn't shake it off. He kept looking behind him, but could see nothing. Then he crossed a creek in a clearing and stood staring back from the other side; and a grizzly bear emerged from the bush and crossed the creek toward him.

Bird stood still. The bear began to circle him, growling deep in his throat. Once the growls rose to a hairraising roar, and he pawed the earth like a bull. He was acting for all the world like a bad-tempered person trying to stir up a fight. Bird, knowing how hopeless his shot pistol would be against such an animal, pivoted, keeping his eyes on the bear. There's an old saying that a steady human stare will make a wild animal retreat: the bear didn't seem to have heard of it. Bird tried a sudden shout and wave of his hat. The bear snarled and moved a little closer. Useless to try to climb a tree; the grizzly would get him before he could reach one. Besides, Bird knew a man who had had his feet and lower legs ripped to ribbons by a grizzly who had upset another theory by climbing part way up a tree after him.

In desperation he finally drew his pistol and fired over the bear's head.

The grizzly stopped circling and backed away a little, uncertainly. "Darned if he hasn't a gun after all," his surprised attitude seemed to say. Another shot; and the relieved trapper saw his enemy swing round and amble away.

FEW men are as cool as Bird was when that close to a cranky grizzly; most get excited over even a black bear. There is a classic story in the Okanagan Valley of a sheepherder on Brent's Mountain who was awakened one night by his dogs' frantic barking, and found a bear raiding his sheep corral. He raced for his rifle, got back just as the bear was climbing the corral fence with a sheep under each arm—yes, the man swore to that.

The herder whipped up his rifle, fired in the dim light; and the rifle

jammed. Frantically he worked at the action, expecting any moment to have a wounded bear descend on him; got the gun going again, saw the bear, and pumped all the rest of his magazine into it—bang, bang bang—as fast as he could work the action and pull the trigger.

The bear never moved. The first shot had killed it, and all the herder's frantic fiddling with his rifle had been quite unnecessary!

A Kamloops man of my acquaintance, however, got himself a bear rug without getting excited, without even firing a shot. No, he didn't buy the rug, either. He thought of buying one when his wife began to badger him to get a bearskin rug for their living room, for he was no hunter. But one spring when checking irrigation ditches on his ranch he found on the shore of a small lake a perfectly good brown bear—that is, a brown animal of the black bear species—which had died just a few hours before from a bullet wound.

It was promptly skinned, and a fine furry rug it made. Not for long, alas, because fur rugs catch dust and raised heads on them trip many an unwary foot; soon it was relegated permanently to the attic.

But if anyone tells you that nobody can get a bear rug without first killing the bear, you can answer that that bear theory, too, isn't always supported by bare facts.

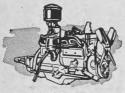






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31 BRILLIANT MODELS IN 6 GREAT SERIES!

# The Countrywoman

#### Wild Hyacinth

To find blue fragrance in a lonely place
That is enchantment
Born of sun and rain
And the dark patience of the earth
That brings again
Another spring unto another year.

-CHARLOTTE BOUCHER.



GNES CAMPBELL MacPHAIL, the first woman to be elected to the Canadian House of Commons, died in a Toronto hospital on Saturday, February 13, 1954, as a result of a heart attack. Her name is well and honorably written into the story of her time and into the official records of Canada. She was the first woman to represent Canada as a delegate to the League of Nations. There she served on the Disarmament Committee—the first woman to so serve.

Agnes MacPhail is widely and warmly remembered by many men and women—whether they be friends or opponents, not simply because of the "firsts" she achieved but because of her forceful personality; her strong convictions and loyalty to those whom she served and to the leaders to whom she gave her allegiance. She had a passion for reform in matters affecting less fortunate groups and individuals in our society. She was launched on her political career by the emergence of the farmers' political party with its New National Policy revised in 1918, calling for a number of reforms.

She was born March 24, 1890, on an Ontario farm of Scottish parents, Dougald and Henrietta Campbell MacPhail. After completing her high school education at nearby towns, Owen Sound and Stratford, she took Normal School training at the latter. For the succeeding several years she taught in rural schools in the province. She became interested in and identified herself with the United Farmers of Ontario and with the U.F.O. co-operatives.

Discontent with the old-line parties was rife and the idea of direct political action by farm people was rapidly taking hold in many of the provinces. Miss MacPhail ran as U.F.O. candidate and was elected as member from East Grey constituency in the 1921 general elections, along with 23 other members from Ontario. Altogether 65 farmer-members elected, from across Canada, formed the Progressive party.

In the 1921 general election, Canadian women exercised the federal franchise for the first time. Miss MacPhail once remarked that it would have been more fair, if not herself but some woman who had fought for woman suffrage, had won the honor of being the first woman M.P. in Canada. She never considered herself a "women's candidate" but rather a human being representing and serving others—be they men, women or children. She did not particularly appeal for the support of women's groups or cultivate close association with them. She encouraged women to enter politics.

BOTH by temperament and party, she was destined always to sit in "opposition," never on the government side. She sat as a member of the House of Commons for 19 years, was re-elected as member for her home constituency in general elections in 1925, 1930 and 1935; and defeated in 1940. From 1924 on, she associated herself with the famous "Ginger Group," a splinter of the farmers' party, composed largely of U.F.A. members, and later included J. S. Woodsworth of Winnipeg, who became leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation party. When the 1926 Session opened the Progressive party had largely crumbled as a result of divisions within its ranks, lack of funds and organization. In his book, The Progressive Party in

In tribute to the first Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons and to the Ontario Legislature who partook in stirring events in Canadian public affairs

by AMY J. ROE

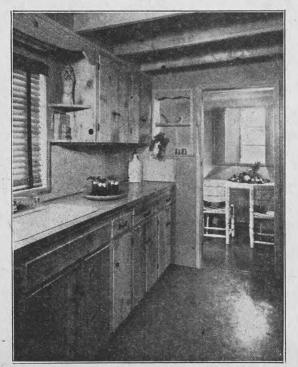
Canada, published by the University of Toronto Press in 1950, W. L. Morton commenting on the fact that Ontario returned two former farmer members, "J. W. King and Agnes MacPhail, whose continued presence at Ottawa was a tribute to her personality rather than to the political strength of the farmers' movement."

Miss MacPhail hated war. She once attacked cadet training and moved that an expenditure of \$59,000 before the House for such purpose be reduced to \$1.00. A Conservative opponent later retaliated bitterly accusing her of carrying propaganda on among school children of Ontario to whom she had sent a seating plan of the House of Commons with a written explanation of parliamentary procedure. In World War II she became convinced that nothing but force would stop the spread of Nazism and gave her full support.

One of her great crusades was for prison reform, during which she was subject to both attack and ridicule. Out of that stirring controversy, in which she was a central figure, came the appointment of a royal commission in 1936. The commission's 1938 report became the basis for the penal reform program introduced in Canadian penitentiaries, following World War II.

In 1943 Agnes MacPhail and Mrs. Rae Morrison Luckock, both on a C.C.F. ticket, were elected to the Ontario Legislature—again the first time for women to win seats in that body. Miss MacPhail held her position for one term, was defeated in 1945; re-elected in 1948 but defeated in 1951. She found herself in straitened financial circumstances.

In the Federal House when sessional indemnities for members had been raised from \$2,000 to \$4,000, Agnes MacPhail could not reconcile her conscience to accept the extra money. The funds were legally hers and could not be otherwise expended. When she did take the full indemnity, later on, she used some of it for the special purpose of helping young teachers to train themselves for the teaching profession. Friends concerned about her circumstances in her latter years approached the govern-



Knotty pine makes attractive kitchen interior.

ment to see if help could be obtained. It is said that she flatly refused to take any kind of help from government. Toronto groups started a movement to further her appointment to the Senate. An editorial writer of April 25, 1950, in Saturday Night, commented:

"The idea that the Senate should not be allowed to become more than 75 per cent Liberal, or thereabouts seems to be making some headway...For the first C.C.F. appointment a very good argument can be made for the selection of Miss Agnes MacPhail, now a member of the Ontario legislature. She is a sort of Beatrice Webb of Canadian socialism having supplied it with ideas and policies for a longer period than any of its living masculine adherents. She became one of the most distinguished figures in the House of Commons... She would be perfectly at home in the Senate and would bring to that body a down-to-earth realism which it perhaps a little lacks."

Miss MacPhail, no doubt remembering the "Senate reform" plank in the farmers' New National Policy platform and the many critical remarks made about its composition and functions, bruskly brushed off the idea, saying in effect that should such an appointment come her way that "the laugh would be on me."

When in 1945, her doctor diagnosed her illness as coronary thrombosis and advised her to rest, her reply was "So I haven't long to live. I'll live the years left to me, doing the things I want to do."

Under her inspiration and encouragement, a Toronto group of women in 1951 organized branch of the Elizabeth Fry Society, a society which had been operating in England for over 100 years with the purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of girls and women prisoners. The first branch to be formed in Canada was in Vancouver, about 12 years previously. Others since have been formed at Kingston and Ottawa in Ontario; at Kelowna, Nanaimo and Kamloops in British Columbia. The Globe and Mail, Toronto, on October 6, 1953, carried a news story and photograph of the officers, including Agnes MacPhail as honorary president, at the opening of an office at 344 Jarvis Street-the first such office to be opened in Canada. Plans were stated that as funds permit, to extend facilities to offer material aid, counselling and psychiatric services, to all ex-prisoner women in the province.

THE story comes from friends that they had recently requested Agnes MacPhail to sit for a portrait painting. She had protested that a painting would be expensive and that she objected to appeals for money on her behalf. They assured her that the appeal would be nation-wide and that the amount given by individuals would be small. Greatly touched by the evidence of their devotion, she gave her consent only a few days before her death.

There should be a memorial to Agnes Campbell MacPhail. It would be most fitting that such memorial should embody some idea concerned with a vital living force in our society rather than to take the form of a plaque or monument. She was a farm girl, a country school teacher, who pioneered in new fields of endeavor for Canadian women. Could not some form of scholarship or award of honor in her name be made to rural school teachers? That was a matter which lay close to her heart and to which she herself lent aid. It is a phase of education singularly overlooked and neglected when special encouragement in the way of awards and assistance are given.

An award made in the name of Agnes MacPhail should be on a nation-wide basis. The appeal for such should rise above provincial boundaries, party or occupation. It would, if rightly planned and worked out, appeal to her friends, to farm people across Canada, to many who never knew her, to those in opposing camps of thoughts and other stations of life on the grounds that it would honor a woman who made a distinguished contribution to Canadian affairs in her day.

Summer guests find many delights, rest and relaxation at the resort among the forest, mountains and lakes, north of Kamloops, run by Grace McGaw and Dorothy Bell, two former newspaper women DUTCHLAKE GUEST RANC by LYN HARRINGTON Photographs by Richard Harrington

Dorothy Bell at the big gate which leads to the ranch building.

OME women, who have a flair for , both pleasure and satisfaction. Their cooking and serving tasty meals, dream of the possibility of some day operating a tearoom or a roadside inn. Others contemplate fitting up cabins and running an auto camp or motel, especially if their place is adjacent to or within easy access to a welltravelled highway, leading to a large town or city.

The dream of getting away from cities and into a business for themselves came true for Dorothy Bell and Grace McGaw, both experienced newspaper women, of Vancouver. They had held various responsible and well-paid jobs. They both had shown courage in changing jobs when routine tended to make them boring. During the war years they had edited an employees' magazine at a shipyard. The time came when it appeared that a change was again due. Now they could try outdoor life which appealed to them greatly-so they bought a ranch.

Several times in the past they had joined up on a project. Once it was collaboration on writing a book. Another time it had been a farm in the Fraser delta area. Neither of these projects had proved successful. That fact did not daunt them. They were ready for another "try."

Their latest project, now well and firmly established, that of a summer resort in British Columbia, has brought

guest "ranch" accommodates 21 guests in dignity and comfort. Some guests have returned year after year. first, a musician from Hollywood insisted on coming before they were quite ready for paying guests.

"Just for a day or two," he said, "well maybe for a week." His stay lasted for seven weeks and he has been coming back every summer

To this man, the Dutch Lake Guest Ranch means peace and relaxation. To others it is a comfortable "base" from which they go on riding trips, hiking or fishing ventures. To all guests it is a charming and homey resort, a place of easy informality without carelessness; of friendly atmosphere without irritating inquisitiveness.

Dorothy Bell and Grace McGaw weren't too sure just what they wanted, at first. But they felt that they would know it when they saw it-and know at a glance what they didn't want.

So they scanned the newspapers for leads, and drove endless miles on British Columbia's main roads and back trails. Then, 80 miles north of Kamloops, at the junction of the Clearwater and North Thompson rivers, they found Dutch Lake. It lies like a gem in a setting of hills. No creek flows in or out, but springs keep the water fresh, and remarkably pleasant for bathing. The little lake also holds trout of five or six pounds, which are highly indifferent to lures.

A little boat landing was almost swallowed up in the big flat circles of water lilies. The owner had simply dumped the roots in, and they'd flourished beyond all expectation, into red and pink blooms. Now the leaves looked solid enough to bear one's weight. In fact, the spaniel started briskly out on top of them. And if you ever saw a surprised dog, it was that one when the leaves sank under his weight!

Beside the lake was the farmer's house, a small clearing where he grew strawberries, and a long, low, log building. It had once belonged to a trapper. The farmer now used its thickly wallpapered rooms as storage. The girls at once saw its possibilities. And along with the building was 125 acres, mostly in forest.

The farmer wasn't too interested in getting rid of the place. And when they finally got him to state a price, it was within one cent of the amount they could afford to invest!

We knew we'd fallen so hard for the property we'd lost our judgment," says Grace McGaw. "So we asked Dot's aunt to pass an opinion."

It was in October, 1946. The lake reflected the deep blue of the sky. The margin was edged with the gold of aspens, accentuated by the darker evergreens.

"Don't ask me to be practical," said the supposedly hard-headed aunt, throwing up her hands. "I'm crazy about this place."

So with cactus and cat, piano and pooch, the girls and Dot's aunt and uncle moved into the farmhouse in April. There was lots of work ahead. After the first day of peeling off layers of old wallpaper to get to the logs beneath, the girls were tired to the point of tears. They simply fell into bed and to sleep.

Soon after, they were awakened by a fantastic crash of noise. The cat, prowling around in the unfamiliar building in the darkness, had leaped onto the piano keys, and was racing up and down over them. What melancholy could survive the laughter that followed?

The girls took off tons of old wallpaper. They washed down the logs, replaced cedar-wedge chinking with mortar, stained and oiled the logs. This building provided four charming bedrooms, each with its own entrance.

The rooms are low and intimate, and a casual air is given by the use of plaid bed throws, and rag rugs on the floor. Decorator's touches appear throughout, such as drapes of Hessian cloth, simply fringed and decorated with stitches of thick, bright wool. It is smart looking, easy to put together, and equally easy to launder.

Then they turned their attention to the farmhouse, adding a kitchen wing. Those were days of lumber and other building material shortages. But up in the hills was an abandoned lumber camp.

"We built the kitchen out of old timbers from the flume, and it was good lumber, too. And we couldn't get plumbing materials, so our handyman, Bob, put together two square laundry tubs, cemented the bottoms, and made an excellent double sink. We still use it."

They needed more cabins, however. And once again they found what they needed at the lumber camp. For \$25 they bought the former cookhouse, and another \$25 brought it to their site.

(Please turn to page 82)





Grace McGaw is responsible for charming touches to the cozy cabins. Guests strike trail from camp through the forest. Cabins are concealed in the birches.

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Smart cooks wouldn't dream of being without Magic-for that touch of sure perfection in everything they bake. Magic's dependability insures your more expensive ingredients-yet costs less than 1¢ per average baking.

#### GINGER-CREAM DEVIL'S FOOD

11/2 cups fine granulated sugar 11/3 cups milk 2 cups sifted pastry flour or 1 3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour 3 tsps. Magic Baking Powder 1/2 tsp. baking soda 1/2 tsp. salt 9 tbsps. butter or margarine 2 eggs, well beaten

1½ tsps. vanilla

Grease two 8-inch round layer-cake pans and line bottoms with greased paper. Preheat oven to 350° (moderate). Combine cocoa and ¾ cup of the sugar in a saucepan; gradually blend in ¾ cup of the milk; bring to the boil, stirring until sugar dissolves; cool thoroughly. Sift flour, Magic Baking Powder, baking soda and salt together three times. Cream butter or margarine; gradually blend in remaining ¾ cup sugar. Add well-beaten eggs part at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in cold chocolate mixture. Combine remaining ¾ cup milk and 2 candied ging bine ¼ cup so corn starch a in milk mixtu cook over b stantly, until and cook, stir flour, Magic Baking Powder, baking soda and salt together three times. Cream butter or margarine; gradually blend in remaining ¾ cup sugar. Add well-beaten eggs part at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in cold chocolate mixture. Combine remaining ¾ cup milk and 2 candied ging bine ¼ cup so corn starch a in milk mixtu cook over b stantly, until and cook, stir and cook, stir and cook over b stantly, until sugar dissolves; cool thoroughly. Sift flour, Magic Baking Powder, baking soda and salt together three times. Cream butter or magic provide the sugar in a saucepan; gradually blend in remaining ¾ cup sugar. Add well-beaten eggs part at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in cold chocolate mixture. Combine remaining ¾ cup milk and 2 candied ging bine ¼ cup signed and salt cogether three times. Cream butter or margarine; gradually blend in remaining ¾ cup sugar. Add well-beaten eggs part at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in cold chocolate mixture addition.

nating with three additions of milk and nating with three additions of milk and vanilla and combining lightly after each addition. Turn into prepared pans. Bake in preheated oven 40 to 45 minutes. Cover one layer of cold cake with the following Ginger-Gream Filling; let stand about ½ hour then cover with second cake. When filling is set, top cake (or cover all over) with whipped cream; sprinkle with toasted sliced almonds and chopped ginger and serve immediately. Or cake may be topped with any desired frosting. GINGER-CREAM FILLING: Scald 11/2 cups milk and 2 thsps. cut-up preserved or candied ginger in double boiler. Comcandied ginger in double boiler. Combine ¼ cup granulated sugar, 2½ tbsps. corn starch and ¼ tsp. salt; slowly stir in milk mixture. Pour back into pan and cook over boiling water, stirring constantly, until smoothly thickened; cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until no raw flavor of starch remains—about 7 minutes longer. Slowly stir hot mixture into 1 slightly-beaten egg; return to double boiler and cook over hot water, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Restirring constantly, for 1 minute. Remove from heat; gradually stir in 1 thsp. butter or margarine and ½ tsp. vanilla. Cool this filling thoroughly before spread-

# Coffee at Its Best

How to make a fragrant, full-flavored brew



A good cup of coffee puts the finishing touch to a pleasant meal.

N making coffee everyone strives for a full-flavored, fragrant, clear and sparkling brew. Experience will teach you the strength and flavor of coffee your family likes best.

Freshness is most essential. Once the beans are ground they quickly lose fragrance and flavor when left in contact with the air. Buy only enough coffee at one time to last a week or two and keep it in a tightly covered container. Unless it is vacuum sealed it is wise to buy coffee that is freshly ground that hasn't had a chance to become stale and flavorless.

#### Water Affects Flavor

Water that is hard or alkali is certain to affect the flavor of the coffee. The only thing one can do about it is to try to find the brand that will give a good flavor with that particular water.

It is important to use fresh water for brewing. Cold water has a certain amount of air dissolved. As it is heated the air disappears leaving it flat and tasteless. By bringing cold water quickly to a boil and using it immediately the flavor is best.

#### Care of the Pot

Just rinsing the pot is not enough to remove the oils that coat the inside of the coffee maker each time you use it. A thorough scrubbing with hot sudsy water, a rinse and an airing are necessary to remove the odor and taste of stale coffee.

A brush will help clean the long tube of the percolator and the spout of the coffee server. To remove coffee stains from glass or porcelain boil a solution of three tablespoons of baking soda to a quart of water in them for 10 minutes. Scour an aluminum pot at least once a month with steel wool-don't use soda.

#### Making the Coffee

When you begin the brewing process the most important thing is to use the correct proportion of coffee to water. Experiment until you find the strength that suits your family best—probably one to two tablespoons per cup of cold fresh water. Then do not vary this amount in

Cook the brew to the full capacity of your coffee maker. Again experiment until you find the time that is best for your type of pot then stick to it. In this way the coffee is consistently good. Once made never let it stand but serve it quickly, piping hot.

#### Coffee Makers

The selection of a coffee pot is important for it is a permanent piece of equipment which is used frequently. If you are buying a new coffee maker check it carefully for ease of cleaning, endurance of material and for size.

A good coffee maker is so made that the basket holding the coffee is in correct proportion to the size of the pot. It may be best to have one for family use, one to make coffee for a crowd since a coffee maker does its best job when made full. Never use it less than two-thirds full.

#### Dripolator

A dripolator is made of metal or earthenware in two parts with a cloth or paper filter or perforated divider be-tween. To make coffee in it scald the pot, put a fine-grind coffee in the top section and pour freshly boiling water over it. The brew drips through into the lower section in about five minutes. Keep it hot but not boiling and stir it thoroughly before serving. As the water comes in contact with the coffee only once the resulting beverage is mild in flavor.

#### Vacuum Coffee Maker

Although this type, too, is in two parts, one over the other, the water is put into the lower pot. The coffee is in the upper bowl, and the steam pressure of the boiling water forces it to the top. When the heat is removed a vacuum is formed which draws the brew into the lower section. Start with boiling water, use a fine-grind coffee and let the water bubble through it for six to ten minutes.

#### Percolator

In choosing a percolator be sure that the basket is large enough to allow for the swelling of the coffee grounds. Use medium-grind coffee, put it into the bas-ket and measure the boiling water into the pot. Percolate slowly for no more than seven to ten minutes. Remove the basket and rinse it with hot water immediately. Serve while fresh.

#### Steeped Coffee

The old-fashioned coffee pot or a saucepan, if it is used exclusively for coffee, makes fine coffee. Keep the coarsely ground coffee in contact with the hot water—just below the boiling point—for not less than six or more than ten minutes. Strain immediately.

#### Coffee for a Group

Steeping is the method usually used for a large group. Place a pound of coffee in a thin cloth bag (several thicknesses of cheesecloth) which is large enough to allow for expansion of the coffee. Tie tightly and drop it into three to four gallons of freshly boiling water. Keep just below the boiling point for 10 to 15 minutes. Squeeze the bag with a wooden spoon several times as it cooks, then remove it. This amount will serve 50.

# Roast Veal for Dinner

Veal roll is an excellent choice for a hearty family meal

LAN your Sunday dinner around a roast veal roll. Veal has a delicate flavor that complements the other foods in the meal. It is easy to prepare, there is no waste to this boneless cut and the man of the house will find veal roll easy to carve.

For color and flavor interest serve tart orange-and-onion individual salads' with the veal. Although this may be a new salad combination the family will find it delicious. Or, if you prefer, serve a colorful cranberry or beet relish. Buttered cooked carrots, lima beans and mashed potatoes give texture, color and taste variation.

#### Menu

Roast veal roll

Mashed potatoes Brown gravy Buttered carrots Lima beans Orange and onion salads

Lemon cake-top pudding

Coffee

A veal roast should weigh at least three pounds. Plan on serving onequarter to one-third pound per serving. Use the remainder for hot veal sandwiches, served with the leftover gravy, for veal royale or veal rounds during the week. If the meat is to be stored before roasting wrap it loosely in waxed or brown paper and place it, for not more than five or six days, in the refrigerator.

Complete the family meal by adding a light tangy lemon cake-top pudding. It is not too filling to follow a heavy meal and will bring exclamations of approval from family and friends.

#### Roast Veal Roll

Sprinkle roast with salt and pepper, if preferred. Place roast, fat side up, on a rack in a shallow pan. Do not cover. Roast in a slow 325° F. oven until well done. If a meat thermometer is used cook to an internal temperature of 180° F. Time: 2% hours for a four-pound roast.

Allow a 15-minute rest period out of the oven after the roast is finished to make carving easier.

#### Orange and Onion Salads

Place a lettuce cup on each of individual salad plates. Peel and slice in thin rounds three large navel oranges and two large Spanish onions. Fit two onion slices between three orange slices. Place on lettuce cup. Put a dab of salad dressing on

top. Sprinkle chopped walnuts over. Pass extra dressing.

#### Lima Beans

Use canned plain lima beans. Drain off and boil liquid uncovered until almost all evaporated. Add beans and heat well. Drain off any extra liquid. Place in bowl beside carrots. Dot with 1 T. butter.

#### **Buttered Carrots**

Scrape carrots. Quarter lengthwise. Cook until tender. Drain. Place in one half of vegetable bowl so that all lie lengthwise. Dot with 1 T. butter.

#### Lemon Cake-Top Pudding

T. butter Juice of 1 lemon T. flour Grated rind of c. sugar lemon 1½ c. milk tsp. salt egg yolks 3 egg whites

Cream butter, add sugar gradually. Add flour and salt. Beat egg yolks until light. Add milk and combine with butter mixture. Add lemon juice and rind. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour into greased 8 by 8-inch pan or 1½ quart casserole. Place in pan of hot water. Bake for 50 minutes at 325° F. Serve warm or

#### Veal Royale

c. cooked veal 1 tsp. salt T. chopped ½ tsp. thyme onion
T. fat
T. flour 2 c. cooked tomatoes 1 c. sour cream

Pan-brown cooked veal that has been cut in half-inch cubes then measured, and onion in fat in heavy frying pan. Sprinkle flour over and blend well. Add remaining ingredients. Cook slowly until mixture is well blended and thickened (15 minutes). Serve with rice.

#### Veal Roll

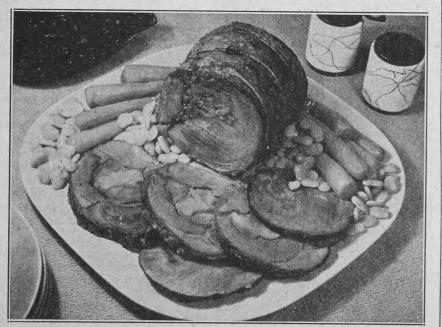
c. ground cooked veal ½ c. thick gravy 1 T. fat 1 T. chopped

onion c. sifted flour

1 T. chopped pepper, if available 1½ tsp. baking

powder 1/2 tsp. salt T. shortening

1/3 c. milk Combine meat and gravy. Melt 1 T. fat in frying pan. Brown onion and pepper. Add to meat mixture. Make baking powder biscuits of remaining ingredients. Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Cut in shortening. Stir in milk to make soft dough. Knead on board 10 times. Roll into rectangle 1/3-inch thick. Spread with meat mixture, roll as for jelly roll. Slice into 4 pieces and place cut side down in baking pan. Bake at 400° F. for 30 minutes. Serve with extra gravy or with tomato sauce. Serves 4.



Roast veal with lima beans and carrots has plenty of appetite appeal.



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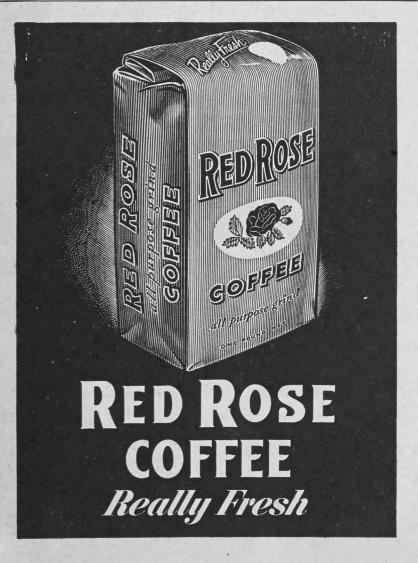


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# New Interfacing

A washable interfacing gives a crisp professional look to home sewing

by LILLIAN VIGRASS

WITHIN the last year a new non-woven interfacing that can be washed has appeared on the shelves of the fabric shops across Canada. It has all the advantages of other interfacings — resiliency, permanency, it is lightweight and it bounces back without a wrinkle even after hours of crushing. It gives a crisp, professional look to homemade garments and adds a built-in shape to the strapless cottons that are so popular this spring. The trade name for the new product is Pellon.



An interfacing is often the difference between a homemade and a professional-looking garment. Used correctly it gives firmness and body to the lapels and fronts of a tailored or semitailored suit. It keeps the collar smooth. It gives a perfect trim line to a peplum or hipline pockets and holds a belt firmly in place. It reduces the need for frequent pressing.

Interfacings are also used in less tailored garments to prevent sagging in loosely woven materials, to reinforce buttonholes and button fastenings and to support the roll of lapels and collar. It softens the turn of sleeves and coat hems and gives crispness and crease resistance to dress and jacket fronts, collars and cuffs of soft, medium and lightweight materials.

The new interfacing is a bonded textile of nylon, wool, cotton and rayon. It is not woven but rather pressed by the use of heat into a thin material similar to felt. Due to its chemical composition the heat fuses or binds the textile so that it can neither shrink nor pull apart. It cannot be crushed and moisture has no effect



on it. It is half the weight of any other interfacing of the same thickness and so porous that smoke can be blown through eight layers of it. It has none of the stiff hairs that so often work their way out of heavier weight interfacings onto the surface of a suit lapel or collar.

Pellon was developed in Holland before World War II by two Dutch scientists. In 1946 an American importer became interested in the product and by 1951 American production was underway. The Canadian manufacturers and retailers import their supply from the U.S.A.

This washable interfacing looks like a slippery surfaced felt. It is made in white, grey or black, is 25 to 27 inches wide and sells for about 90 cents a yard for the lightest weight, \$1.40 for the heaviest. Because it is non-woven there is no lengthwise, crosswise or bias to the fabric, but is equally flexible in all directions. When cutting interfacings you can fit your pattern pieces as closely together as possible on the material with no concern for the straight of goods. In this way every scrap can be used.

It cuts and handles like paper. But unlike paper it cannot be permanently crushed. It is sewn with ease, is not bulky at the seams and the sharp, neat edges give a tailored finish to collars, cuffs, pockets and buttonholes.

With the introduction of an interlining that is washable, possibilities for its use have more than doubled. Manufacturers are using it to interline bras-



sieres, made with or without straps. It is used for strapless swim suits—and evening gowns—with built-in curves and it gives a permanent flare to the latest full-skirted creations of rayon, silk, wool or cotton.

In your own sewing consider using it to interline the lower half of a full petticoat. Worn under the gay full skirts so popular this spring it would add a permanent flare to the hemline without adding bulk at the waist or hips. Used on the bands of skirts and slacks, whether they are washable or not, would keep them smooth and firm. Collars and cuffs on the spring cottons when interlined with the lightest weight fabric remain crisp even after many washings and large interlined pockets on skirts and dresses can't sag or go limp.

It will give a crisp, professional look, too, to bedspread tops that are quilted by machine. It will give an upholstered look to cushions and valances and will keep draperies fresh-looking indefinitely. It is usable even as a tablecloth pad.

# Needlework for March

If you crochet, sew or embroider these ideas are sure to please by ANNA LOREE



Design No. E-299.

This toy bunny is one of the nicest Easter gifts we know for the toddler. Make it of percale, gingham, chintz or calico, in a plain, print or plaid. Material requirements are only one-third of a yard. You also need four buttons for attaching the legs to the body, two small buttons for eyes and cotton yarn for the whiskers and tail. Use cotton batting, kopak or shredded foam rubber for the stuffing. The foam rubber is extra good as it washes well yet is no more expensive than the others.

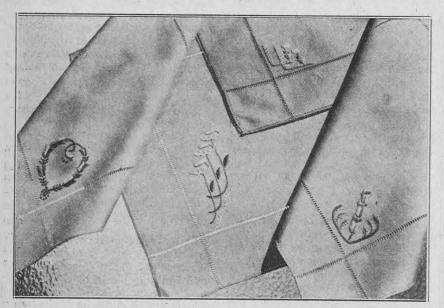
The finished toy is approximately 15 inches high. Note that there is no seam allowance on the pattern given. Pattern for cutting and sewing instructions are Design No. E-299. Price 10 cents



#### Design No. CT-246.

This dainty lace collar and cuffs in white or a pastel will bring a touch of spring to a dark dress. Crocheted of No. 30 cotton with a No. 10 hook it takes but a few hours to make.

The collar and cuffs themselves are of simple chain and double crochet. The motifs that edge the set are made separately and tacked in place. A tatted collar and cuff set are included in the pattern. Instructions for starching laces is also given. Crocheted collar and cuffs set is Design No. CT-246. Price 10 cents.



#### Design No. PE-4288.

For those who like to embroider these ever-popular handkerchiefs are fun to make. Use white or pastel-toned hemstitched hankies and add a touch of color in the yellow, tangerine, nasturium, red and emerald green embroidery. Trace the motifs onto a corner of the handkerchiefs then follow the diagram for the colors and stitches to use. Motifs and embroidery instructions are Design No. PE-4288. Price 10 cents.

Address orders to The Country Guide Needlework Department, Winnipeg, Manitoba.



# 5 BRAND NEW 1954 MODEL FORD "CUSTOMLINE" SEDANS

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# 31 winners every 2 weeks for 10 weeks!

You'll certainly agree that any one of these prizes is well worth writing 25 words for! AND REMEMBER YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO WIN IS AS GREAT AS ANYONE ELSE'S . . . . just get your entries in!

ENTERING IS EASY! In 25 words or less complete the sentence "I'm glad I switched to Blue Bonnet Margarine because..." Mail with end-flaps from two Blue Bonnet Margarine packages (each with Good Housekeeping Seal) and your name and address to Blue Bonnet Sue, P.O. Box 2170, Toronto, Ontario. That's all there is to it!

NEW CONTEST EVERY TWO WEEKS, for ten weeks! These valuable prizes go to Canadians every two weeks for ten weeks: 1 Ford Sedan, 5 Necchi Sewing Machines, 5 G.E. Ironers, 20 Marconi Radios!

For winners' list write P.O. Box 2180, Toronto, Ont.





#### Guest Ranch

Continued from page 76

Bob was a genius at carpentry. He tore it apart, and built two charming cabins right at the water's edge.

The barn which once housed cows, now serves to hold hay and riding gear. "It isn't practical for us to keep livestock, since we don't stay here in winter," says Dot Bell. "We rent riding horses for the summer, for the convenience of guests who want to ride. There are many beautiful trails around here. And often fishermen want to go to Star Lake, and ride the 15 miles. We have an auxiliary fishing camp there."

An unusual feature about the Dutch Lake Ranch is the smoke-house for curing fish, so the fishermen can take them home. Many fishermen prefer this to using ice. Dorothy Bell's father operated a fish cannery on the coast, and she learned all she could from his experience. So they put up the smokehouse. The scaled fish are laid out on wire trays, a fire built beneath. "The sweet smoke of western alder is best," she says, "but we can use poplar or willow."

The two women have divided the responsibility in a way which gives both some free time, and an opportunity to follow her own bent. Dorothy takes the outside work—the garden, pumping system, the lighting plant, and the horses. Grace McGaw is in charge of the housekeeping and catering.

"We've never tried to carry on single-handed, however, even if it sounds romantic and all that," says Dorothy Bell. "We have three maids, a cook, plus a hired man during the summer. Last spring we brought a Dutch couple out from Holland, and they're working in very well."

It is a large garden, yielding many varieties of vegetables which come to the table fresh and crisp. "We do a



Visitor paddles among lilies near dock.

lot of canning, too," says Grace. In fact they have to buy very few vegetables. When the iron triangle jangles for dinner, there's a dignified rush of guests to the dining room.

"We grow enough to see us through the winter, if we want to stay here. In fact, we did stay here through several winters, but we think it's wiser to get away, in order to retain a proper perspective. We may take jobs in winter like editing the Fort St. John News as we did last winter—or give ourselves a holiday. It all depends on the state of the company's finances."

#### Raisins for Flavor

RAISINS supply part of the day's requirements of iron, other minerals and the B vitamins. And they are as delicious as they are good for you so keep a supply on hand at all times. Use them in the tried-and-true recipes for raisin pie, raisin and spice cake. Then try them in entirely new ways.

As "treats" raisins instead of candy will make for healthier children and, if mothers start them young enough, they can become a habit. Leave a box on the kitchen table and let the young-sters help themselves—there will be no bad results.

Raisins make a pleasant surprise when used in an every-day dessert. Once on a trip to Colorado our dessert ice cream was literally packed with plump, juicy raisins. Now, at the family's request, I often make "Colorado ice cream."

Stewed raisins make an excellent dessert. Wash the raisins well then soak overnight. Stew gently for ten minutes and serve plain or with cream. They are delightfully sweet so will need no sugar. If they are too sweet add a small amount of lemon juice just before removing them from the stove.

They are good as a sauce poured over vanilla ice cream or drained and stirred into a boiled custard.

An excellent salad, sometimes called Health Salad, is made of grated raw carrot and chopped or whole raisins mixed with salad dressing and served on lettuce leaves. Carrots and raisins ground together and mixed with dressing makes a tasty sandwich filling for the children's lunches.

Next time you bake apples mix a generous amount of raisins with the sugar and cinnamon stuffing. Baste occasionally during the baking. Raisinstuffed apples, you will find, are a deluxe dessert.

Try adding raisins also to biscuits, muffins and bread. Use your usual recipe but toss in a handful or two of raisins each time. A grandmother who lives nearby adds them to wheat bread each time she bakes. No wonder the children hover near her at baking time!—L.P.B.

To chop raisins heat bowl and chopper to prevent sticking.

Dates separate easily if heated in a 350° F. oven for several minutes.

To grate chocolate shred with vegetable parer. It is quick, easy, clean and neat.

To make frosty red punch for winter parties add 1 quart raspberry sherbet in scoops to 2 quarts ginger ale. Blend until frothy in punch bowl.

String three doughnut "holes" on a toothpick so they touch and fry with doughnuts, then remove toothpicks. They are as good as full-sized ones.

Whip sweet potatoes until velvety, season with salt, pepper and butter and moisten with pineapple juice to retain bright color and look extra appetizing.

# Filling a Comforter

By using a vacuum cleaner the job of filling tubes is simple by "QUILL"

FOLLOWING the clear instructions If in The Country Guide article (September, 1951) How To Make a Down Comforter with tube construction, I successfully completed a new cover for my old comforter. The problem of how to fill the tubes with feathers, however, proved difficult. My pleas for help to various sources brought no solution. I had to experiment. The results might interest those readers who, like myself, are novices at this kind of a job.

The cleaning of the old feather filling will have to be done at home for no cleaning establishment will accept the feathers-and who can blame them -"unless in a new down-and-feather-

proof container.'

To prepare for washing, rip out all the "top" or pattern stitching in the old comforter. Open a small hole at one side and empty the feathers into a large bag, almost any thin cotton material will do if there are no holes in

WASH the feathers, bag and all, in a large tub or in the washing machine. Use lots of water, a little suds and rinse several times. Press out the water by hand for the wringer will cause the feathers to bunch and crack the covering. To dry, lay the bag out on bushes or on chicken wire which has been spread on the ground.

The feathers have to be divided into equal amounts for filling the tubes. Do this when they are about half dry-they are manageable in this state. Use cotton or strong paper bags of equal size and as many as there are tubes in the new cover. To keep the feathers from going all over the place as they dry, close the mouths of the bags by folding over and pinning with clothes pegs. Finish drying indoors or

When completely dry transfer the feathers to the tubes in the new covering. At first I tried inserting the open mouth of the bag of feathers into the open end of the tube and shaking. Then I tried other ways to induce the feathers to fall in. I had no success.

A quick and simple method, I found, was to use the upright-type vacuum cleaner. Remove the dustbag

and set it out of the way. Clean the inside of the vacuum with a damp cloth, taking care to remove every bit of dust and grit. Spread newspapers on the floor or ground, if you are working outdoors. Tilt the vacuum up so it is easy to use, and you are ready to start.

Tie the open end of one of the tubes in the new cover firmly with string onto the fitting of the vacuum from which the dustbag was removed. Open one of the paper sacks of feathers ready to use. Hold the tube where it is tied to the vacuum with one hand (once you have grasped it never let

With the other hand turn on the power. Then, holding the sack close to the mouth of the up-tilted vacuum, let it draw up the feathers. They will go roaring up into the comforter tube. When every feather is safely in shut off the power and remove the tube. Fold and close the end of, it with clothes pins. Do the same thing with the next tube and another bag of feathers. Repeat for each. When all are filled carefully baste the ends closed. Finally, stitch closed.

To plump raisins for salads, etc., and for easier chopping, wash, place in a sieve over boiling water, cover and steam ten minutes.

To prevent potatoes turning black when cooked, especially if old, add a small teaspoon vinegar to the boiling salted water in which they are cooked. It improves the flavor, too.

To remove excess fat from soup or gravy wrap ice cubes in cheesecloth and pull it over the surface. The fat hardens as it collects on the cloth.

Make cheese-filled biscuits to serve with a salad or meatless meal. Combine 1 c. grated cheese, ¼ c. chopped stuffed olives and 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce. Cut ¼ inch thick, put filling on half rounds, top with remaining rounds and seal edges with fork tines.

Chopped hard-cooked eggs in a hurry—poach until hard, drain and chop with a pastry blender or wire

#### Aprons for Every Occasion



Design No. SS-48.

Three entirely different versions may be made from the same simple apron pattern. Two bandanas or men's work handkerchiefs 20 inches square make the novel work apron to the right. A half yard of shell pink cotton with 3 yards of 5-inch eyelet make the extra-pretty tea apron and included for more formal occasions is an organdy



apron with a deep organdy frill. The latter requires 2 yards 36-inch organdy. Design No. SS-48 has instructions for one-size apron only. Price 10 cents.

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CANADA

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#### Color in the Kitchen

DECORATING the kitchen should be given the same careful consideration that one gives to the treatment of any other room in the house. For a period the trend was toward an "all white" appearance with walls and equipment. The underlying idea was that it represented cleanliness. The result often was a room as bare, clean and sterile looking as a hospital operating room.

Now the swing is to a warmer treatment of color. Modern materials come in an attractive range of colors and the surfaces are durable and easy to keep clean. Color adds a sense of cheer and coziness. A knotty pine finish is attractive and decorative as illustrated on page 75. The cornice board over the window adds a pleasing touch and the Venetian blinds instead of curtains makes it possible to regulate light and at the same time give privacy. They are easy to clean and save on laundry. The blinds come in a wide range of

Quarter-circle shelves for either side of the window can be made from leftover pieces of lumber. They make an excellent place for keeping recipe files or decorative ornaments. Leaving an open area between kitchen and dining nook is smart. Shelves there are handy places for pass-through use, or to hold bright dishes or growing greenery. The view can be enjoyed from either side. -Louise Price Bell.

#### Fix Up the Porch

GET out the old porch chairs from the cellar or attic, paint them a soft green, make cushions of contrasting color from remnant materials always to be found at the proverbial "song." Scrub up the old picnic table and benches so that you can serve many a family meal outside.

Fill some gaily painted pots with greenery and fasten them on the wall, in dime store brackets. The result will be a pleasant, livable outdoor spot, protected by a roof so that you can sit



outside and read, eat, play cards, or even listen to radio if there is an outlet there, or your radio is a battery type. Either give the floor a fresh coat of paint or put down an inexpensive

For practically no expense, you'll have an extra room, or at least it will seem like one because of the way you have fixed it up. On rainy days when the youngsters are restless and underfoot, you can "shoo" them out here for their play while you do your work. They will be within sight and sound of your watchful eye and ears.-L.P.B.

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See that baby is kept warm, gets plenty
of sleep and take extra care that the
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#### BACKACHE May be Warning

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# Simple Paint Rules

Clip and file for reference against that time when you will be wielding a paint brush

SOME time ago the Canadian Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association drew up a set of simple rules designed to help those who, at one time or another, wish to do their own painting jobs. There was so much interest that the Association re-issued the rules with a few amendments and additions. It frequently happens that there is quite a lapse of time between episodes of painting around the home, that one can well do with reminders on essential points. These are:

- 1. Use a good quality paint. If the job is worth spending time on, it deserves a paint that will give best results.
- 2. Stir the paint thoroughly before using. Everybody knows this should be done, but plenty of people still are inclined to skimp on the stirring.
- 3. Be sure that the surface to be painted is absolutely free from dirt, oil or grease—and of course make sure it is dry.
- 4. Follow the directions on the can. The manufacturer really knows best how his product should be used—he has spent a lot of time and money to find out.
- 5. When, or if, paint needs thinning, thin it sparingly in the way recommended on the can.
- 6. Use a good quality brush. It pays off in a better paint job.
  - 7. If it is a new brush, give it a 24-

hour soaking in linseed oil before painting.

- 8. Use a brush of sensible size for the job. Don't try to do a wall with a little brush, or to paint a narrow pipe with a big brush.
- 9. Allow plenty of time between coats. Not just enough time so that the paint is no longer tacky, but enough time so that it has dried hard and firm.
- 10. Do your painting when the air is warm and dry. In interior painting, make sure that there is plenty of air circulating.
- 11. If the surface hasn't been painted before, use a good primer sealer undercoating for the first coat.
- 12. Don't apply paint in heavy coats. Two thin coats are always better than one thick one.
- 13. In choosing paint colors from color chips, remember that the color of the finished job will be somewhat more concentrated than that of the color chip because it has been applied to a greater area.
- 14. Remember the simple rules of color—that blues, greens and allied tints are "cool" colors and that yellows and orange shades are "warm;" that light colors in a room give an impression of greater spaciousness and darker shades do the opposite.
- 15. Ask your paint dealer for advice on particular problems; or telephone or write any reputable paint company whose products you are using.

#### Proper Mixing

PRACTICALLY every householder gets ideas about dabbling around with a paint brush at this time of year. Many so-called amateur painters do a good job of keeping their homes clean and colorful in their spare time. Others have difficulty getting the wall or cupboard or shelf to look just the way they have pictured it to themselves before they start. Some turn out a paint job that is not as good as it could be for the simple reason that they fail to mix the paint thoroughly before they start.

To realize the importance of thorough mixing of paint, the user has to keep in mind that he is working with a complex material consisting of oil, pigment, dryer and thinner. The proportions of each in any can of paint is a matter of careful technical measurement so that the resulting paint can do its complete job of protection and beautification. Because of their different densities, all these materials tend to separate upon standing — and the mixture becomes good paint again only after they are completely blended together before using.

Stirring is the most common method of recapturing this perfect blending of materials. It would be a sound method provided sufficient stirring is done—but, human nature being somewhat on the impatient side, most people stop stirring before the complete mixing has been accomplished.

A more satisfactory way of assuring complete material blending in paint is by the use of a second can into which half or two-thirds of the material from the top of the original can may be poured. The pigment and liquid left in the first can are thoroughly stirred until no heavy pigment is left on the bottom and until the mixture is perfectly smooth and uniform. The contents of the second can then are added back to the original container gradually, with constant stirring.

To complete the mixing under this method, the paint is then "boxed"—that is, it is poured back and forth from one can to the other until it is uniformly smooth. If old paint has been used, and there are particles of skin undissolved in the mixture by this time, they can be removed by straining through a small mesh wire or cheese-cloth.

THE beautiful effect on natural knotty pine wood finishes can be developed by use of the following technique: The character of the knots first is brought out by rubbing with a clean rag wet with a mixture of linseed oil and turpentine in equal parts. The rag should be worked around the knots to allow the turpentine to soak in and develop the natural color. The entire surface then is coated with the same mixture of linseed oil and turpentine, or with a varnish stain of good quality.

The surface then should be left overnight to dry, and then a light coat of shellac is applied. After the shellac is thoroughly dry—it should be given at least two hours—the wood can be sandpapered lightly along the grain and finished with wax.



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#### Painting Pointers

by LOUISE PRICE BELL

To aid in the task of mixing paint, turn your paint can upside down (be sure the lid is on tightly) for 24 hours

Try pasting a paper plate to the paint can and you will eliminate unnecessary mess. Another good tip to keep paint from running down the outside of the can is to put a strong rubber band lengthwise around your paint can. Use the band to wipe excess paint from your brush, and the outside of your can will remain bright as new.

Do you ever wonder how much paint is remaining in a partially used can? Paint a line on the outside of the can at the top level of the paint, and you can tell the amount of paint inside as well as the color, without opening the can.

Painting woodwork is often difficult because of doorknobs, hinges, locks, etc. Instead of removing these, put a coating of Vaseline on them and any paint that happens to overlap can be easily removed.

An old pair of socks will come in handy when you are in the process of painting. Slip them on over your shoes and not only will they protect your shoes, but you can easily remove any paint that drops on the floor . . . and without stooping over to do it.

Have you ever tried to paint drawer handles which you have had to remove from the drawers because you want them a different color? You will find the job is simple if you screw each handle into a stiff piece of cardboard. All you have to do is hold the cardboard and paint to your heart's content.

Make your flower pots bright and new looking by turning them upside down over a tin can and brushing on your favorite colors. The can will act as a stand and may be turned as the pot is painted, thus protecting your hands and the pot. The pots should remain in this position until dry.

Before painting any surface, be sure that all cracks and holes are filled with something - either regulation putty, plastic wood, or one of the new crack fillers that come in convenient pencil form. Once this is done, your paint job will be smooth and look as it should-as though there had never been any cracks or holes.

There is a little painting trick of considerable help to the amateur-a trick long employed by professionals. Instead of removing excess paint on each brushful by rubbing the brush across the edge of the can, the brush is patted gently on the inside of the container. This helps prevent paint from running down the handle of the brush, it means that more paint is patted into the brush so that more surface can be covered between brush dips, and it prevents the unsightly and annoying trickles of paint which otherwise run down the outside of the can.

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No. 4539-Toddlers' style dress. Skirt may be gathered or smocked and joined to yoke. Buttoned front band is made separately. Embroidery may be added to it and Peter Pan collar. Sizes 1/2, 1, 2 and 3 years. Size 1 requires 11/2 yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 4455-Boys' coat, hat and leggings. Raglan sleeve and easy fit allow for a year's growth, or more. Six-section cap has tiny peak, may have ear flaps. Leggings have inner storm cuff, elastic at waist and shoulder straps. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years; 20, 21, 22, 23, 231/2 and 24-inch chest. Size 3 requires 3¾ yards 35-inch or 2¾ yards 54-inch material for 3 pieces; coat only 1% yards 54-inch; leggings 1 yard 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.



Children's Favorites



No. 4586-Coat and dress ensemble for the growing girl. Special instruction sheet included gives alteration directions for chubby girls. Unmounted sleeves with cuffs, roll col-lar, patch pockets and flare back are coat features. Dress has all-round gathered skirt, fitted bodice with wide round neckline, small sleeve, and ribbon ties at neck and waist. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years; 221/2, 23, 24, 25 and 26-inch chest. Size 10 coat requires 3% yards 35-inch or 2% yards 54-inch material. Additional fabric required for chubby girl. Price 35 cents.

No. 4449—A button front jumper or dress to please a young girl. Bodice is darted to fit, seven-gore skirt has immense pockets, flares to 100 inches. Note square neckline of jumper. Dress has Peter Pan collar and short or threequarter set-in sleeves with cuffs. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires 27/8 yards 35-inch or 134 yards 54-inch material. Dress 3¼ yards 35-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 4589-For school or Sunday wear, this girl's dress features a tucked front yoke, small collar and short set-in sleeves. The skirt is gathered at the waist and flares to 100 inches. Second version is sleeveless with white collar, yoke and skirt trimming. Sizes 7, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 10 requires 3½ yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

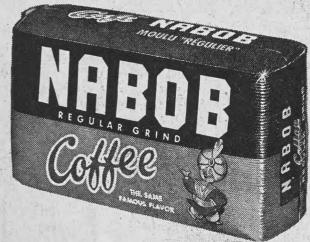
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#### He Chooses Heavy Milkers

Two-time winner of Saskatchewan production contest credits his severe selection program

by DON BARON

S. A. CHENNELS, whose farm is only a few miles southwest of Saskatoon, employs a simple, but severe, method of selecting replacement heifers for his dairy herd. Their dams must have a production record of at least 500 pounds of butterfat in one lactation.

He calls this method the secret of developing a high-production dairy herd. His cows are not registered purebreds: in fact, a couple of red cows among the black and whites indicate a diverse background. But they are workers and in 1953, for the second time, they topped all of Saskatchewan's Dairy Herd Improvement Association herds to win the I. C. Nollet trophy, offered in the Greater Average Production Competition.

Contest figures credited the herd with 15.9 cow years, and an average of 12,406 pounds milk and 481.5 pounds of fat, for a score of 118.4 points, the best in the province. In 1950, the herd won that position, too, and two bronze shields, signifying each achievement now hang in the little farmhouse.

A quiet-spoken dairyman, Mr. Chennels is more modest than ever after his win, and insists that he did no more than most dairymen do with their herds. "Just severe selection of replacement heifers," he says.

But there is something else. When asked if he ever took a holiday, he smiled and admitted he hadn't really been away since 1945. His pretty 12 - year - old daughter Marguerite, chimed in gleefully, "Daddy won't go away and leave a single straw out of place under the cows." He has a devotion to the herd which requires that every chore be done thoroughly, whether it is milking, bedding, or feeding the cows.

He farms three quarter-sections, growing his cash crops, rye and wheat, on the most fertile soil, as well as the mixed grain which is chopped for the herd. The lighter alkaline soil is down to hay and pasture. Brome has been his best bet

here, for his luck with alfalfa has been spotty so far.

He has no ambition to own extravagant buildings, preferring to keep costs down, while concentrating on high production from the herd. The frame stable is a little cramped now, and his thoughts are turning seriously to a loafing barn and milking pen. Even in winter the cows go outside, twice a day, to the water tank, while the young stock live outside with just a fence for protection against the wind. All have remained healthy, so he has no fear of fresh air.

Now that a succession of good Holstein sires since 1942 have left him with good females, his feeding program makes them milk. In winter, hay and oat bundles supply roughage, and the chop is mixed at home. Oats, barley and wheat, grown as mixed grain, is chopped and mixed with a 32 per cent protein dairy concentrate. Salt and bonemeal are added, and this mixture is fed at about one pound for every four pounds of milk each cow delivers to the pail.

Mr. Chennels recalls now that one of his best decisions was made when he joined the Saskatchewan Dairy Herd I mprovement at Association. Through it, the production of each cow is checked at practically no cost to him. It was surprising, he says, how the cows he thought were among his best, turned out to be mediocre when he weighed and tested their milk. The figures enable him to apply a rigid selection program in choosing heifers for the herd.

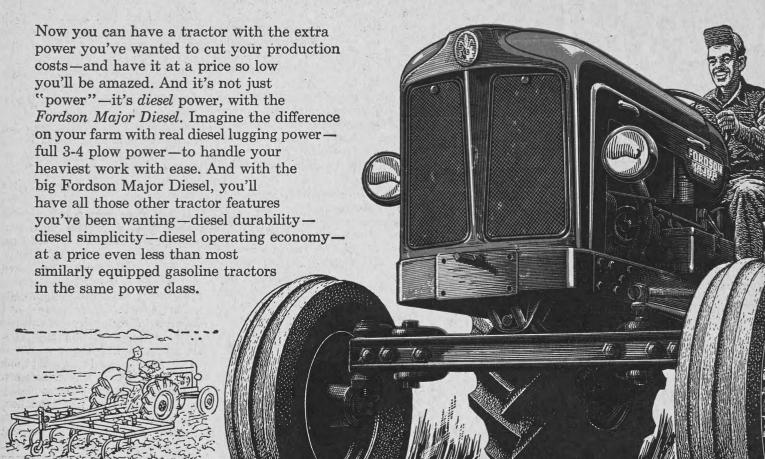
Even after he picks out his own, neighbors will buy the other heifers, and he raises very few young cattle. He says that it is cheaper in his district to sell them for a few dollars at birth, and not have to feed them good milk.

He says that the cows are down to seven cans a day this winter. He is quick to point out the reason. A shortage of grain led him to leave them without a concentrate just before they began to freshen last fall. It meant a little less milk this year, but he is economy minded, and is sure he is dollars and cents ahead. V



A few of the high-producing cows seen on summer pasture.

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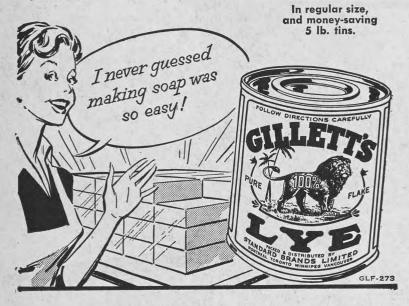




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#### Horticulturists Meet at Saskatoon

Tenth Annual Meeting of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture discusses a wide range of subjects

by H. S. FRY

THERE are local horticultural societies in each of the prairie provinces, and provincial horticultural associations as well. These organizations are for everyone — the amateurs of town and country and the professional horticulturist, whether he be a parks superintendent or gardener at some large institution, or a real professor. For the last ten years there has also been a prairie-wide association of horticulturists of a somewhat different character. This one is primarily professional and is known as The Western Canadian Society for Horticulture.

Because its members consist largely of horticulturists at our universities and experimental stations and in our provincial departments of agriculture, as well as some nursery men and others, its membership is relatively small. Dr. C. F. Patterson, head, Department of Horticulture, University of Saskatchewan, who reported on membership at the annual meeting of the Society in Saskatoon late last month, said there are now 129 members, the highest number in the history of the Society. Of these, 79 were active members and 50 associates.

President L. W. Kerr, superintendent, Forest Nursery Station, Sutherland, Saskatchewan, noted an increasing interest in horticulture, which he ascribed partly to the large number of new homes built in Canada each year, partly to the increased amount of leisure which many workers now have each week, and to greater care and attention to the appearance of schools and other public buildings, as well as to the marked increase in motor travel, which annually takes many more people to places of natural interest and beauty.

He believed that this imposed an increasing responsibility on horticulturists, and regretted that too few university graduates are taking postgraduate studies in horticulture.

ONE of the first projects sponsored by the Society was the Prairie Fruit Breeding Program, which is supported by the federal Experimental Farm Service at provincial universities, and is now well under way. Already, 26 tentative selections of likely looking seedlings have been made. These will be subjected to cri'ical observation from now on and, eventually, to testing in other areas, if they prove worthy of it. Some 3,000 seedlings-from controlled apple crossesare also growing at the University of Saskatchewan, and the development of these will also be carefully observed and recorded. There is presently a surplus of controlled-cross seedlings, for which there is insufficient prepared ground at the co-operating institutions. The Morden Station, at which all of the crosses are made and seedlings started, has something over 38,000 seedlings this spring. It is hoped that homes can be found for as many as cannot be accommodated

in institutions where facilities are available for accurately recording their characteristics and development.

New varieties of fruits said to be suitable for prairie conditions are appearing very rapidly. A list of these presented by Dr. Patterson, for the Fruits Committee, contained 67 varieties of all fruits, a great many of which had not been tested, and some of which were under number only. Of this number, 33 were apples. The remainder consisted of much smaller numbers of crabapples, apple-crab hybrids, rosybloom crabs, plums, cherries, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries.

A little more progress is being made each year in zoning the three provinces for recommended fruit varieties; and this year, for the first time, a new area in the Peace River district of Alberta was added. Also, the horticulturists agreed on a uniform designation over the three provinces to represent increasing degrees of adaptability of individual varieties. Hereafter "S," appearing opposite a variety on a recommended list, will mean that the variety is satisfactory; "F" will stand for "fair"; "T" will mean "suggested for trial"; "U" will mean "unsatisfactory"; and "—" will mean "behavior not known."

TWO very important and difficult problems were discussed at some length by the horticulturists. These were the problem of chlorosis, or yellowing, of plants, and research on the problem of hardiness. Some research workers believe that these two problems are in some manner related; but not enough is known about either, to enable anyone to say so with certainty. Hardiness is recognized as of very great importance in the prairie climate, but despite a considerable amount of research already done on this subject in Canada and elsewhere, no one is yet able to explain in detail what actually makes one variety hardy and another tender, or why a variety will survive in one area and die in another, or why the same variations in behavior will occur with respect to chlorosis.

The Society was much concerned about the lack of specific information as to the value of field shelterbelts, despite the fact that as early as 1935 special test areas were esablished at Conquest and Aneroid in Saskatchewan, at Lyleton in Manitoba, and at Porter Lake in Alberta. In all, approximately a thousand miles of plantings have been made in these four areas, in addition to at least an equal amount of planting by individual farmers and groups of farmers in Saskatchewan alone during the last two years. The meeting favored a resolution urging the director of the Experimental Farms Service at Ottawa to provide some specific information as to the value of field shelterbelts for the information of provincial departments of agriculture, farmers, and for the horticulturists themselves.

An organized and uniform attempt by provincial departments of agriculture to obtain the opinion of farmers who have such shelterbelts was also favored, and it was suggested that a carefully prepared and uniform questionnaire might best serve this purpose.

The use of weed-killing chemicals during the past ten years has been of great benefit to growers of cereal crops but, by the same token, the chemicals also have been a headache to many horticulturists. Many complaints were reported of damage to large numbers of horticultural plants, even though these were as much as a mile from the crops to which the chemicals had been applied. In such cases, however, dusts rather than sprays were generally responsible. Abnormalities in plant growth, as well as seriously reduced yields presented evidences of damage, most of which seems to have occurred during a period of two or three weeks in June and early July. On some fruit plants, such as grapes, it had been found that as little as one ten-thousandth of a milligram of the chemical, per plant, especially if the plant were young and growing actively, was sufficient to cause substantial damage. As far as it could be traced, the greatest amount of damage followed the use of the ester form of 2,4-D. The newer lowvolatile esters seemed to cause less

CONSIDERABLE attention was paid to vegetable crops and the Vegetables Committee was able to

present for the first time a list of vegetable varieties for recommendation by zones. There are so many vegetable varieties and so many vegetable crops that a complete list was not possible, but the agreed-on list contained those varieties which are generally satisfactory in the prairie area. With this prairie list as a beginning, it will be reviewed and improved from year to year.

A special session was devoted to the potato at Saskatoon, and two authorities were present from eastern Canada, both of whom have been intimately connected with the National Potato Breeding Program. N. M. Parks, Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, is in charge of the national potato variety and seedling tests. He discussed the importance of the potato crop in Canada and outlined in some detail the way the tests will be carried on in the future, and also the manner in which the licensing of potato varieties is handled under The Canada Seeds Act.

L. C. YOUNG has been associated with the potato breeding program in Canada since its inception in 1933, at the Fredericton Experimental Station in New Brunswick, where he is still in charge of this project. In the meantime, emphasis has been altered several times since the early breeding for resistance to mild mosaic and late blight. In 1936 breeding for scab resistance was added, and in 1937, another addition was resistance to leaf roll, while in 1951, much greater emphasis was

placed upon the virus diseases, of which there are several. In addition to these developments, attention has also been given to resistance to aphids and to bacterial ring-rot, although the latter disease, which has assumed considerable importance in western

Canada, is not particularly troublesome in the east. Today experimental and illustration stations in every province as well as several agricultural colleges and provincial stations are co-operating in the variety and seedling testing program.

# Rabbits at the Crossroads

Myxomatosis, the fatal rabbit disease, has appeared in Britain and touched off a controversy

by D. F. SYMINGTON

THE pretty little rabbits of the British nursery rhyme, with their pretty little habits, stand fair to compete with rats as Public Enemy No. 1 of United Kingdom agriculture.

Their habits include eating tremendous quantities of the farmers' grass and forage crops, digging up his fields and meadows, ruining the hedges that do valuable service as fences, undermining the embankments and drainage ditches that are essential to damp-climate farming, and doing considerable damage to woodlands.

On the other hand, the rabbit does have a few good points. Rabbit stew is a dish much esteemed by the Britisher, and potting rabbits legally, or poaching them illegally, is something of a national sport in the British Isles.

Furthermore, the Britisher is notably kind and solicitous of animals of all kinds. Thus the discovery in October of a lethal rabbit disease, myxomatosis, in Kent, touched off a considerable controversy.

Myxomatosis, an infectious disease spread by biting insects, originated in Montevideo, South America, and has in recent years been artificially spread, with devastating effect, among the rabbits that constitute an actual plague in Australia.

Allowed to spread through the British Isles, the disease would doubtless cut the rabbit population down to the point where damage would be negligible. Many farmers wish this would happen, but the government has chosen to fence off the few one-and two-hundred-acre areas where the disease was first discovered and exterminate the enclosed rabbits in order to wipe out the infestation. There is much controversy as to whether this step is justified by the facts,

It is a fact that the rabbit does provide food for people in Britain. Many thousands of tons are eaten

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One vital ingredient in the discovery of oil is money. Since 1946, the oil industry has made a tremendous investment in order to find new oil sources and develop the fields that have been found.

From this investment, the oil industry has yet to realize a profit return. Since 1946, for every dollar invested in oil exploration and development, the gross value of oil produced has amounted to only 54 cents. The net to the oil companies has been far less, for out of this return they have paid field operating expenses, royalties, taxes, and other charges.

Oil development in Western Canada is a long range program. In the oil business, you put before you take — but in the meantime the public has benefited through lower prices for petroleum products, increased employment, new industry and revenue to governments.

CANADIAN PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

every year. One estimate I got was that 50 million rabbits are sold annually in meat shops throughout the country. One cannot walk through a business or shopping district in London, or the provincial towns, without seeing half a dozen shops, each with dozens of rabbits, fur still on, hanging from the ceiling.

Each of the rabbits sold will provide a meal for two or three people, but Ministry of Agriculture officials estimate that the damage a rabbit does in a year, in terms of crops ruined, would feed two or three people for a week. And that doesn't take into consideration the tens of thousands of man-hours of work spent repairing damage and putting expensive rabbitproof fences around woodlots where young trees are being started.

In spite of the terrific slaughter for food, and the killing of a lot of rabbits that never see the meat shops, the number killed has, in postwar years, been far too small to keep the rabbit population within reasonable bounds.

On an evening walk among the fields and hedgerows in the country, one can easily count 75 or 100 rabbits feeding busily on the farmers' forage and "corn" – the U.K. term for all cereal crops. I know of one estate where men had to be hired to clean out a whopping 20,000 rabbits; and even after a drive like this a farmer has to keep the pressure on or they'll come in from all sides and be as bad as ever in a year or so.

By law, the farmer must keep the rabbits on his land within reasonable control, and if he doesn't, government "pest officers" are permitted to come onto his land, clean out the rabbits and charge the farmer for the service, just as it used to be with weed-infested fields on the prairies.

A large "party of guns" can kill a thousand rabbits a day in some areas, but cartridges cost money, as do the traps that are sometimes used, or the long nets, or the poison-gas-generating powders that are put in the burrows to kill them off underground.

Thus the farmers who argue that myxomatosis should be spread rather than stamped out by the government, have a pretty good case on their hands.

The whole rabbit situation in the United Kingdom rather forcibly brings up the question that has still been only imperfectly answered on the Canadian prairies: "Can the sportsman and the 'nature lover' rightly dictate to the farmer that he can't take strong measures to control wild game that does great damage to his crops?"

Some farmers, it was my impression, actually don't want to see myxomatosis spread, but many others do, and it seems patently obvious to me that the disease would boost agricultural and forestry production tremendously, and lower the terrific expense of control.

BUT the public is a tremendous pressure group. The government committee under Lord Carrington, which will be expected to decide what is best, will come under heavy fire no matter what decision it makes.

The public likes the hunting and the rabbit stew; and since myxomatosis brings a lingering and messy death,

there would be a terrific outcry at the hordes of "unpretty little rabbits" that would stumble across the roads, all swollen and probably in considerable pain.

And there are a few groups, like the fur felting industry, who depend on rabbits for their livelihood, and they command some public sympathy. Fur from rabbit skins is the hatter's raw material, and the industry in Britain used close to nine million skins last year. Another 30 million were exported to North America.

But many farmers will feel they've been done hard by if myxomatosis is stamped out and discarded as a control measure. The government will be accused of a negative sin of omission.

It is my guess, however, that the disease will not be used, for emotional if not practical reasons, human nature being what it is. It is far easier for a government to take a passive rather than an active stance. And people are

pretty well emotionally convinced that, rather than by disease, a rabbit might better die sportingly of a load of lead pellets, or by humane poison gas, or by an inhumane trap that is at least hidden from the public gaze.

However, as all farmers are aware, Nature is often prone to take decisions like this out of the hands of governments, settling the argument her own way. While the pros and cons of stamping out myxomatosis were being argued all over Britain, a few other, widely scattered outbreaks occurred. If it becomes final policy of the government to stamp out the disease, the difficulties will be very great, without the help of cold weather in stamping out the epidemic. And even the oldest old-timers in the British Isles can't remember a winter as mild as this one.

(Old-timers now will not have to remember farther back than late January and February of 1954.—ed.) V

# **Dairy Conventions**

Production and consumption of dairy products increased in 1953, but margarine is still of some concern to the industry

DAIRY farmers in the four western provinces discussed many phases of the industry at their annual conventions in February; and again this year, the competition of butter with margarine claimed a large share of attention.

With the advertising campaign that is financed through the June set-aside, beginning to show results, J. J. Creighton, president, National Dairy Council, pointed out that Canadians are consuming more dairy products than for several years past. For example, he said that fluid milk and cream sales in 1953 were nearly five per cent above those for 1952. Total butter consumption surpassed the previous year, but barely kept pace with population increases, while total cheese consumption is continuing to climb and domestic consumption of evaporated and powdered milks showed healthy increases over previous years. Ice cream sales reached an all-time record, with Canadians eating the equivalent of 1,450,000,000 ice cream cones, or 98 ice cream cones for every man, woman and child in Canada.

Production of milk in Canada is increasing, too, Mr. Creighton said, and last year reached the highest level since 1945, at 17.5 billion pounds. Milk cow population likewise increased and on December 31, 1953, numbered 171,000, or six per cent more than on the same date in the previous year.

"This means," he went on, "that in each of the last two years, our cow population has increased at more than double the rate of the increase in human population. With inadequate export markets, a surplus of milk in the form of butter threatens to reach unmanageable proportions, unless steps are taken without delay to move greater quantities of dairy products into consumption here at home."

Looking back over last year, Mr. Creighton recalled with satisfaction that legislation had been enacted in each province, giving butter some protection against unfair competition from margarine.

However, he emphasized his belief that "the fight has just begun. The very powerful international vegetable oil interests which stand to gain untold millions of dollars at the expense of this great domestic industry of ours, are recovering from the severe, but temporary, set-back they received at the hands of all provincial legislatures last winter.

"Only a strong, united and militant dairy industry can hope to overcome and defeat the exceptionally well-financed and subtle propaganda campaign which is being carried on throughout this country in an effort to undermine the legislation which our provincial governments have so courageously and wisely enacted."

BRUCE EDIE, president, Manitoba Dairy Association, said there is little doubt that, if margarine were colored yellow even near the normal color of butter, sales would increase from 15 to 20 per cent. This would replace butter and result in higher butter surpluses, which would depress the price of butterfat, and possibly lead to fraudulent practices.

Discussing a changing cheese situation in Canada, W. C. Cameron, associate director of marketing service, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, recalled that cheese was for many years known as the balance wheel of Canadian dairying, because most of the Canadian milk surplus was exported in that form. However, milk is now being diverted for the manufacture of other milk products, and there may be relatively small quantities of cheese for export. In the production season of 1952-53, Canada imported from New Zealand just about as much cheese as she exported to all countries. This meant that the 62½ million pounds of cheddar cheese produced in Canada during 1952, was the quantity used by the home market.

Dairymen got down to a discussion of dairy farming at the meetings too;

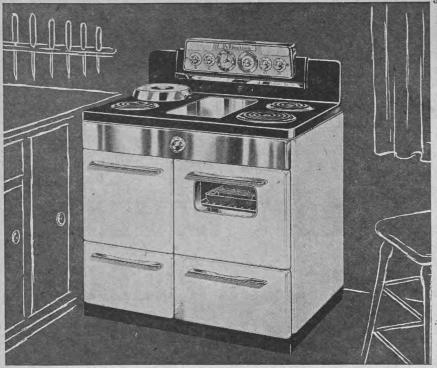
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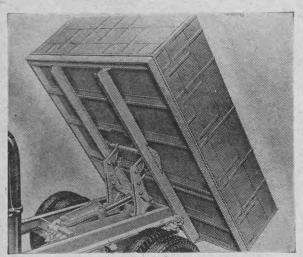
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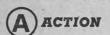
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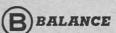
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and at Saskatoon, H. E. Wilson, superintendent, Melfort Experimental Station, said that a dairying and grassland program integrated with grain growing is one of the best means of preserving soil fertility. "Grain farming," he said, is only a half-time business and farmers cannot expect to continue indefinitely making a good living from half-a-year's work.

"Chemical fertilizers alone will not maintain our soils," he thought, pointing out that it took 10,000 years to form the topsoil in Saskatchewan, but, in only 60 years of cropping, one-third of the organic matter has been lost.

At the annual meeting of the Dairy Farmers of Canada at Hamilton, Ontario, Dr. H. L. Patterson, director of farm economics in that province, discussed some of the factors in making a dairy herd pay. Since price is a group problem, he pointed out, there is little the individual can do about it alone. The big variation in success between farms, he has found, lies in the costs of producing milk. These have led to a

maximum annual difference in net income, among farms he has studied, of \$11,000.

For example, grain was called the expensive part of the dairy cattle feed, and the rate of grain feeding is extremely important. Since the other source of cattle feed is obtained from roughages, which are less expensive than grain, it is preferable to supply as many of the nutrients as possible in the form of roughages and pasture.

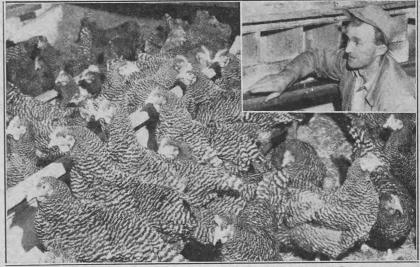
Efficient use of labor was listed as necessary to keep costs down, and Dr. Patterson said that pen barns have the lowest time requirement of any type of barn layout. Another advantage of this system, is seen in the fact that production per cow, was above average in

the herds he studied.

Size of herd is another important factor, and over the years farm records indicated that large herds are the most profitable. In unfavorable circumstances, however, large herds have heavier losses, and size determines how large the profit or loss will be.

#### Manitoba **Poultry Farmer**

He crowds the birds into the pen, uses individual nests, and feeds his home-grown grains with good results



J. H. Hamm, and his high-producing flock of Barred Rocks.

J. H. HAMM of Altona, Manitoba, has been raising poultry for 13 years, and is more satisfied now than ever that a laying flock makes an ideal companion enterprise to grain growing. Although he was recently elected president of the Manitoba Approved Flock Owners' Association, the methods he uses to make his flock of Barred Plymouth Rocks pay its way are not always orthodox. So far, he has made them work, and that is the important thing.

Although the experts tell him that each bird needs 3½ square feet of floor space, he has crowded them in more tightly than this. By using extreme care, he says he gets better results, for the birds stay warmer. Plenty of ventilation keeps the pens dry, and on frosty days, a cloud of white rising from the ventilator shaft that pierces the roof gives evidence of this. Fresh air enters the pens through open windows, for he found ventilating slots above the windows unsatisfactory.

Some years ago, he tried community nests in the laying house, but found the birds crowding and shoving inside them, and breaking eggs as they moved restlessly around. He is back

to more satisfactory individual nests

Mr. Hamm buys his chicks, hatched from eggs from his own flock-in mid-March. This means that he must have extra brooder space available for fastgrowing birds during a late, cold spring, but he has found that early chicks are the most profitable. The pullets come into the laying house from the range in the late summer, when they begin to lay, and there go onto heavy feed.

Since he sells eggs to the hatchery, a commercial hatching mash is fed. Mixed with his own ground grains, this is always kept in front of the laying birds. In the morning the birds are thrown some scratch grains. At noon, water is poured over the mash to make it crumbly and the birds gulp/ this down too. In the evening, the hoppers are filled again with dry mash, and the birds are thrown a feed of home-grown barley, oats and wheat, to pick and scratch out of the deep litter.

Mr. Hamm farms on good grain land, but still finds poultry will pay their way, turning that grain into ready cash.



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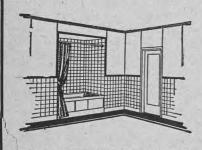
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#### Notes from **British Columbia**

Quality vegetables-certified seed potatoes-cattle shipments-milk quotas-workmen's compensation

by C. V. FAULKNOR

B.C. vegetable marketing circles for 1954. In a newsletter to growers, the B.C. Interior Vegetable Marketing Board has advised decreased plantings of late cabbage, celery, onions, early potatoes and tomatoes. Exceptions are those growers willing to specialize in celery hearts, and tomato growers able to produce a quality pack.

Joining the Interior agency on the quality bandwagon is its coastal counterpart, the B.C. Coast Vegetable Cooperative Association. The latter has launched an ambitious selling campaign for Netted Gem potatoes, based on a new line of kitchen tested gems, uniformly sized, attractively packaged, and labelled "Hi-Test."

Samples are taken from shipments of potatoes arriving at co-op warehouses, and boiled for 20 minutes. Any mushiness or "tattletale grey" displayed by the hapless murphies, is enough to disqualify them from the Hi-Test packs, and relegate them to the less glamorous role of common potatoes. Conscientious co-op cooks even boil their samples an extra five minutes to allow for the careless housewife, who lets her charges boil over while she chats with a neighbor over the back fence. V

Buyers of B. C. certified seed potatoes don't have to buy a pig in a poke, if they insist on stock that has been previously "test-grown." Through a potato seed-testing service conducted during the winter months at Oceanside, California, the Field Crops Branch, B.C. Department of Agriculture, provides prospective buyers with a preview showing of the seed offered for sale by many leading B.C. growers. This is actually a forecast of the percentage of virus diseases liable to occur when the seed is planted. Results published each year around the first of March, listing the growers' names and addresses, enable purchasers to know the seed before they buy. Forewarned is forearmed, as the saying

Shipments of B.C. cattle last year totalled 63,419 head, an increase of 8,045 over the 1952 figures. Hide shipments showed a similar trend, with 17,265 marketed in 1953 as compared with 14,258 in the previous year. Eighty-seven per cent of the cattle shipped came from the Central Interior. The Kamloops-Nicola district again marketed the largest volume for the year, with 24,653 head. The Cariboo area followed with 16,784 head, and the Okanagan-Smilkameen placed third, with 13,598 head. Increased marketings were generally offset by lower values. At the larger cattle sales such as Williams Lake, Kamloops, and Okanagan Falls, prices were substantially lower than in 1952.

The B.C. Milk Board quota system does not exclude newcomers from entering the milk producing game. Board Order No. 44 rules that basic quotas may be transferred from one primary producer to another, on the

"Quality" produce is the theme in sale or transfer of an entire herd as a producing unit. Prospective dairymen intending to start from scratch, however, must wait for an opening on the quota list. A limited number of these are available this year, but anyone intending to start a dairy should check with Board officials first. Milk produced outside a quota is generally declared surplus, and diverted to dairy products manufacture. To the producer this means up to 50 per cent reduction in net return.

> Milk quotas for 1954 will be based on the average production of a farm from August 1, 1953, to January 31, this year. Quotas were previously set on a three-month basis by Milk Board Order No. 40, put into effect last October. Order No. 40 set the basic term for determining quotas, as the "three lowest months of milk dealers' receipts from primary producers, during the six calendar months prior to February 15 each year." "Basic quota" is defined as "the daily average number of pounds of whole milk shipped or supplied by any primary producer."

> Reason for the extended basic term this year is that milk production figures have been very irregular. The longer term is expected to even out these figures so that a more representative quota may be reached. One of the main factors disrupting normal production flow has been the mad scramble on the part of many farms to increase their daily milk output in order to establish a higher quota, Last fall, daily receipts of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association averaged 1,000 cans more than on similar days the year before. The result is that 1953 will go down on record as their biggest production year, by a long way.

> Sometime this year milk producers will be asked to decide by plebiscite whether quotas are to be revised annually, or remain static, and to express their wishes on the matter of a single marketing agency.

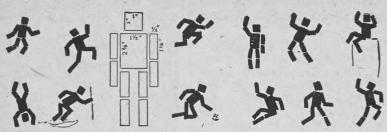
> B.C. farmers, through their organizations, have voiced strong disapproval of Chief Justice Gordon Sloan's recommendation that the Workmen's Compensation Act be amended to extend compulsory coverage to employees in various fields of agriculture. They point out that Section 5 (1) of the Act already allows the Board to admit any new groups, as they see fit. Furthermore, Workmen's Compensation is already available on a voluntary basis to farm help, by application of either the farmer-employer or his employee. In 1950, about 72 B.C. farmers took advantage of this. From this limited experience, farmers feel that a compulsory Act would require a premium charge of \$3 per \$100 of payroll, for the initial years. Many of them can and do carry accident insurance on their help, through regular casualty insurance companies, at less cost. One thing is certain. Any move to make Workmen's Compensation Act coverage compulsory for farm workers, would be vigorously opposed.



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# The Country Boy and



 $\mathbf{M}^{ARCH}$  surprises us—it may bring us a promise of spring with warm sunny weather or it may be one of our coldest months. This month look for Snowy Owls as you go about-you'll find them perched on haystacks or telephone poles. These Snowy Owls are our friends as they live almost entirely on mice.

For indoor fun try making figures from the paper shapes shown. When you have assembled a few into action poses, try making a few into a scene to paste on a large sheet of paper, such as: a football game, a skiing party, a skating party or a skipping scene-add a few touches of your own to complete the picture. There's no end to the actions and pictures you can make with these oblong shapes. Here are the sizes to cut the

shapes: head 1 by 1 inches, body 1½ by 2% inches, arms 1% by ½ inches, legs 1¾ by ½ inches -ten oblongs are needed to make each figure.

ann Sankey

#### Saucy

#### by Mary Grannan

SAUCY was a little kitten. Had he been your kitten, you would have understood why he sometimes acted the way he did. He was really a good and kind little kitten at heart, but there were certain things in Saucy's life that made him appear quite the

One of these things was his cousin, Velvet. It seemed to Saucy that from the very moment he had opened his green eyes, he had heard nothing from his mother but two words, "Cousin

Velvet!"

"Saucy dear, why can't you be more like Cousin Velvet?" his mother would say. "She walks so beautifully."

Another day she might say, "Just look at you, Saucy! You've been rolling in the dust again. Why can't you keep your fur sleek and shining like Cousin Velvet keeps hers?"

And on another day, "Saucy, do you have to mieow so loudly? Cousin Velvet has a soft voice. Don't you think, dear, that you could mieow like Cousin Velvet?"

"No," said Saucy in desperation. "I can't mieow like Cousin Velvet, because I'm not Cousin Velvet. And I'm sick of the sound of her name. It's Cousin Velvet! Cousin Velvet! All day long, I hear nothing but 'Cousin Velvet.' I don't want to mieow like her. I don't want to walk like her. I don't want to look like her. I like me much better."

"Darling," said his shocked mother, "I'm astonished. You must never think yourself better than anyone else.

"I don't think I'm better than anybody. I just like being me, that's all. I wouldn't be Cousin Velvet for all the milk in the world." He bared his sharp white teeth and added viciously, "I hate Cousin Velvet."

What was Mrs. Cat going to do with this kitten of hers? She said, "You're a wicked little kitten to say

such things. Come back and listen."
"I won't," said Saucy, opening the door to the porch. "I'm going out, and I'm going to roll in the dust and I'm going to get all mussed up, and get burrs in my coat, too."

Saucy slammed the door, and went off to the garden, where he met his friend, the butterfly. Saucy liked Mrs. Butterfly. They played tag together. She would flit from flower to flower, while Saucy laughingly gave chase. That morning, as they rounded the honeysuckle bush, they noticed Cousin Velvet sitting on the fence, watching.

Cousin Velvet called out, "Saucy, may I play with you and Mrs. Butterfly today?

"No," said Saucy, his green eyes narrowing disagreeably. "You can't play with us, and you get out of my garden or I'll sic a dog on you."

"You wouldn't, Saucy," said Cousin

"I would too," said Saucy. "I know a dog and I'll call him, and I'll sic him, if you don't get off that fence and get out of my sight.'

"I'll go, Saucy," said/Cousin Velvet, brushing away the tears that were welling up in her pretty eyes. "But Saucy, please will you tell me if I've done anything to you? If I have I'm

"Yieow," snarled Saucy, approaching Velvet with claws outstretched. Cousin Velvet leaped from the fence and ran home. Mrs. Butterfly locked at Saucy in amazement. She had never seen her little kitten friend acting like this before. "Saucy," she said, "you didn't answer Cousin Velvet's question. What has she ever done to

"Nothing," said Saucy. "I just hate her, that's all."

Mrs. Butterfly laughed. "You couldn't hate anyone, Saucy," she said. You're the nicest and kindest little kitten I have ever known.'

THAT evening Mrs. Cat told Saucy that they were going over to Cousin Velvet's house. "She has a surprise for us. Saucy, please try to behave yourself while you are there. Cousin Velvet has such lovely manners. Won't you try to copy them, at least while you are there?

"I'm not going," said Saucy, slowly

and deliberately.

"But you are! I said we'd go and we're going," said mother firmly.

Saucy began to roll his eyes and groan loudly. "Oh mieow, I'm sick."

You're not sick. You're trying to deceive me. Oh, what am I going to do with you? Cousin Velvet wouldn't deceive her mother."

Saucy put his grey paws over his mouth to stop the angry words that were trying to escape. He followed his mother across the way. He greeted his Aunt Tabitha politely.

"And now for the surprise," said Aunt Tabitha. "Come into the living

Cousin Velvet was seated at a tiny piano. It was new and beautiful, and Saucy loved it with all his heart. He wished for a piano. He knew he could play it, if he had one. He went forward to touch the shining ivory keys. His mother restrained him. "No, dear. Mustn't touch. It's Cousin Velvet's piano, and she's going to play and sing for you."

Looking at Saucy, Cousin Velvet

"I know a little kitten, His fur is soft and grey; I wish that he would ask me To play with him some day. His eyes are green and twinkling, He is so very nice; He wouldn't hurt a butterfly

Or catch the little mice. "How do you like that, Saucy?" asked Aunt Tabitha. "Velvet made the song up, and I think it's about you." "Isn't Cousin Velvet clever?" asked Saucy's mother.

"Mieow," snarled Saucy. "I hate her." He ran to the piano, pinched Velvet's tail, then jumped through the open window and went home.

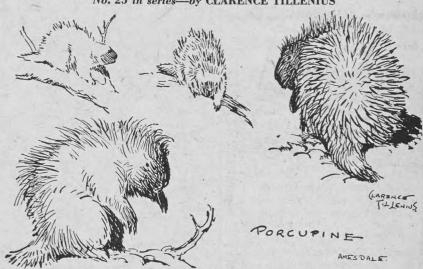
School opened the following week, and Saucy was happy. Cousin Velvet had developed a bad cold. She had to stay in bed. There was a little piano in school, and Miss Maltese, the teacher, allowed Saucy to play it. Saucy made up songs, and sang about how much he loved the classroom, his new friends and his teacher. He was clever with his arithmetic, his spelling and reading. But when Velvet came to school the following week, Saucy changed completely. He said that he couldn't play the piano, and that he couldn't make up songs. He made mistakes in his arithmetic and spelling, and he stumbled in his reading. The next day he didn't go to school. He went down to the meadow brook and sat in the sun.

Miss Maltese, thinking he was ill, went to inquire about him. "Oh, that wicked kitten," said Mrs. Cat. "He's playing truant. Why can't he be more like his Cousin Velvet? I point up her good qualities all the time. 'Why can't you walk like Cousin Velvet, and talk like Cousin Velvet?' I say. She is so

(Please turn to page 97)

# Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 25 in series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



THE first porcupine I ever drew from life was in the jackpine woods of Ontario. The sketches made on the occasion I considered well earned, for I had trailed him over a half mile through snow that came up to my armpits in places.

When I found him, he was sitting in the crotch of a small pine about seven feet up - ideal for drawing. The only catch was that the porcupine has no shape-or if he has, it is only in the sense that a bag of potatoes has shape.

I had only a sharp-pointed pencil with me and had to do what I could with it. A piece of black chalk, a lump of charcoal, or a very soft pencil makes a better instrument for sketching porcupines. A sable brush with

Indian ink or water color is also good. The reason is that a poroupine's coat is composed of long, coarse, bristly hair and thousands of barbed quills. His pelt is so loose and shaggy that you almost have to guess at the form

Still the good old rule "begin with the head" applies here as with other creatures. Get that first, and the rest of the body should not be too difficult. Remember also that the tail is short and club-like - and stay away from it! One slap of it will fill you as full of quills as a pincushion is full of pins. Don't try to pat him on the head either, no matter how nicely he has posed for you or how much you would like to become friends. A kind word is just as good - and much less painful.





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Saucy

Continued from page 96

pretty and so clever. But does he pay any attention to me? No. He just won't try to be like Cousin Velvet."

Miss Maltese needed to hear no more. She understood, and quite firmly she said, "Mrs. Cat, Saucy's behavior is all your own fault. Saucy is just as pretty, and just as clever as his Cousin Velvet. But he is not Cousin Velvet. Let him be himself. Praise him for the things he does, and not for the things you think he should copy from Cousin Velvet. Everyone is different, Mrs. Cat. If you will just forget Cousin Velvet, and think of Saucy, you'll find that you have the nicest little kitten in Kittenville."

Mrs. Cat thought this over, and agreed with the teacher, that she had been wrong.

After that Saucy and Velvet played together. "I never really did hate you, Velvet," said Saucy.

"I know," said Cousin Velvet.

You would have known too, had Saucy been your kitten, wouldn't you?

## Electric Heaters For Water Tanks

A 200-WATT electric heater for outdoor watering troughs is usually sufficient in the prairies, according to work done by the Department of Agricultural Engineering, at the University of Manitoba. With this heater, a 100-200-gallon metal tank is suitable, and if conditions are right, daily power consumption should be only four to seven kw. hours.

The University says that thermostats are not necessary with low voltage heaters, in tanks of 100 gallons or larger, as the rate of temperature change is very slow. Since the temperature of ground water is about 40 degrees F., in the west, there is no need to keep the water warmer than that. A cover over the tank is worth while in cold weather, especially at night, but in mild weather, with temperatures above zero, heat is likely to be required only at night.

The University suggests that the tank be placed in a wooden box with a six-inch layer of chaffy straw, or its equivalent, under the bottom and on all sides, for insulation. The cover is best built in two sections, covering

No two people are alike and both of them are glad of it.—Olin Miller.

one-third and two-thirds of the container respectively, for ease of removal. Two plies of shiplap with half-inch-thick rigid insulating board between them, can provide a satisfactory cover.

Scale formation provides the greatest problem with these heaters, according to the tests, but this can be overcome by clamping heaters to the bottom of the metal tank. Some heaters, it was discovered, are so constructed as to be difficult to clean. Lead-covered, hot-bed cable was tested with heaters at the bottom of tanks, and proved satisfactory. Two types of floating heater were also tried, and these were satisfactory although they seemed to offer no particular advantage.

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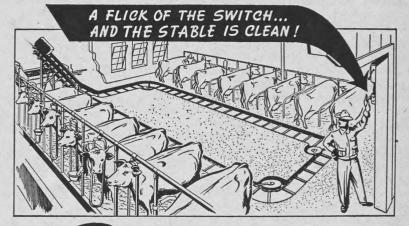
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THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME Serving the farmers of Western Canada Since 1882

Vol. LXXIII

Winnipeg, March, 1954

No. 3

#### **Hog Price Spreads**

THE hog industry in Canada has reached a critical condition and something must be done about it before long. Indeed, market hog producers should not be surprised if, some time within the next year and perhaps during the coming summer, the spreads between Grades A, and B1 and C, are widened to the point where it will be less profitable to market heavier fat hogs than it has been during

the last year or two.

Several circumstances since the war have conspired to produce an unfortunate lowering of the proportion of Grade A market hogs in Canada. One of these was, of course, the cessation of British bacon contracts, which tended to give many producers the impression that since our hog grading system was originally devised to meet the standards required by the British market, the need for maintaining a high quality, bacon-type hog in Canada no longer existed. Another condition, which appears to have developed in Alberta more than elsewhere, has to do with the more or less indiscriminate use of cross-breds. The point seems to have been reached in some sections of the province where color on a weanling or feeder pig is believed to carry an almost certain guarantee of higher returns. Producers, faced with high costs and quick to recognize the narrow price spread between a Grade A hog and just plain hog, have been understandably willing to accept the advantages of the moment, and sell lardy, rather than meaty animals.

In Alberta last year, less than one hog out of five marketed, graded A. Standing second in number of hogs marketed last year, Alberta had only 19.9 per cent Grade A's and was definitely at the foot of the class and away below the national average of 27.2 per cent. The deterioration has been very rapid. Manitoba and Saskatchewan, each with less than 23 per cent A's, are only slightly less guilty, since the combined marketings of both provinces were only

half those from Alberta.

Fats are more or less a drug on the market. Last year Canada exported about 60 million pounds of pork to the United States, in the form of trimmed cuts. This was the equivalent of about 600,000 hogs, or about one out of eight marketed. The United States can provide a relatively unlimited market for Canadian lean hogs. U.S. farmers already produce an overabundance of fat hogs, and the American consumer will pay up to ten cents per pound more for lean, than for fat pork. Consequently, the more fat hogs are produced in this country, the more they will depress the price of all hogs, unless the producer of the bacon-type hog is encouraged by a price spread more in keeping with the differences in market quality which undoubtedly exist.

#### Field Shelterbelts

THE Western Canadian Society for Horticulture at its recent annual meeting in Saskatoon, registered a complaint that despite 18 years of experience with field shelterbelt areas established during the Thirties to test the virtues of tree planting for field crop areas, no pronouncement has yet come from the Experimental Farms Service as to the value, or otherwise, of this type of tree planting.

Four such shelterbelt areas exist on the prairies, all of them established as test areas, and none of them productive of published results. They are located at Conquest in central Saskatchewan, at Aneroid in the southern part of the same province, at Lyleton, Manitoba, and at Porter Lake in Alberta. Combined, they represent about 1,000 miles of shelterbelt, or enough to reach from Winnipeg to the Rockies. A considerable amount of federal money has been expended in furnishing the trees for these projects, in payment to farmers for planting and caring for them for various periods, and in sending inspectors and various officers of the Federal Service to visit them for record taking and observation. The general opinion of prairie horticulturists, both professional and amateur, is that the breaking up of large cultivated prairie areas into tree-protected fields has had beneficial results. Farmers who have had such sheltered fields on their own farms for a number of years would, in our experience, not like to have bare fields again. Nearly everything we have heard of the opinions of other farmers whom we have not contacted ourselves, bears out this conclusion. The Experimental Farms Service, under whose guidance these test areas have been nourished, says nothing.

Provincial Departments of Agriculture have an

interest in the effectiveness of field shelterbelts that is second only to that of the farmer himself. They have a right to be told whether the advantages of tree planting on the prairies can be extended usefully to the protection of field crops and the increase of yields. They have a right to expect that after nearly two decades of experience with areas especially established for the purpose, some information about the utility of field shelterbelts will be forthcoming immediately from the only agency able to provide it. The horticulturists of the prairie provinces, many of them in the employ of the Experimental Farms Service, have a right to some guidance in their advice to farmers, and in their consultations with provincial officials.

It is said that investigation with respect to this matter has been taken out of the hands of the two Forest Nursery Stations in Saskatchewan, which for 40 years have been supplying farmers with millions of trees annually, and put into the hands of a committee headed by a senior Ottawa official. There it has remained, apparently shrouded in a too-familiar silence. Surely, after 18 years, during which one would suppose the making of observations and the taking of records to have been a more or less continuous process, a progress report on the value of field shelterbelts is the least that ought to be expected.

#### Leave the Set-Aside Alone

THE June, 1953, set-aside, of one cent per pound of butterfat sold from Canadian farms, is expected to reach \$365,000, or a little more. This program for publicizing the merits of dairy products as food is now in its fourth year. Sponsored by the Dairy Farmers of Canada, in co-operation with the National Dairy Council of Canada (whose members are manufacturers and distributors of dairy products), the scheme has attempted to fill an important part of the gap in the relationship between producer and consumer.

Until this program was inaugurated, Canadian farmers, with the exception of the fruit growers of the Okanagan Valley, in B.C., had been neglectful - and for the most part unaware - of their share of responsibility for the cultivation of consumer food appreciation, tastes and buying habits. Farm products, especially perishable products such as fruits, eggs and poultry, meats, and milk and its products, were offered to the market for what they would bring, with almost no thought of emphasizing quality, continuity of supply, or healthfulness.

Now the tide is turning somewhat. The Dairy Foods Service Bureau set up to manage the June set-aside for the sponsors, will have expended more than a million and a quarter dollars by the end of its current fiscal year. During the year beginning June, 1950, collections amounted to \$344,000, and the three succeeding years brought totals of \$304,-000, \$327,000, and this year, \$365,000.

These annual amounts could well be substantially increased. Indeed, the potential from the 1953 set-aside was about \$625,000, but all provinces are not equally enthusiastic about the program. During the current year, for example, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and the three maritime provinces each made new high records, while Alberta and British Columbia were only very slightly below their previous high totals. Western Canada achieved approximately 90 per cent of its potential, and Alberta nearer 100 per cent. The program is, therefore, well under way, and gives promise of more rapid future development in the East.

Signs have appeared, however, which seem to indicate that there are those who, unintentionally no doubt, would weaken and eventually tear down the dairy foods program. At the recent Alberta Dairy Convention a resolution was presented which was promptly, and very wisely we believe, turned down. It would have requested that a small amount -say five per cent-of the money collected in any province, be retained in that province for local expansion on behalf of the dairy industry. On the face of it, five per cent is not very much, only one dollar out of every twenty. Nevertheless, once the process of eating into the total amount begins, there can be no certainty about where it will end.

The money collected during the last four years was a unified effort, by the whole of the Canadian dairy industry. The sponsors are nation-wide organizations. The campaign conducted by the Dairy Foods Service Bureau is a nation-wide campaign. There is no reason to believe that its efforts have not been expertly managed, according to the standards of good public relations and advertising. To chip away at the principal sum contributed so generously by the bulk of the dairy producers across the country, for the purpose of financing puny and inadequate local campaigns, would be the height of folly. It is not sensible to plan the erection of a second structure with materials torn from the first. V

#### **Controls and Penalties**

N its annual submission to the federal cabinet, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture commended the principle of delivery quotas for grain, in the following words:

"The principle of putting grain delivered to country elevators on a quota basis, in time of space shortage, is necessary to the equitable operation of our grain-marketing system, and we would ask that uniform quotas be adhered to with sufficient flexibility to allow the Wheat Board to take full advantage of all possible markets. We would request also that when individuals break faith with their neighbors through flagrant violations of quotas, they should be penalized to the full extent the law

We believe the quota system is now generally accepted by producers, as the only practicable method of fairly distributing grain deliveries in periods when elevators are not able to take care of all the grain that may be offered. What is not so thoroughly understood is that these quotas are controls; and that they are directed by the marketing agency in pursuance of its obligation to market the grain of all producers to the best advantage.

Quotas have been imposed by the Wheat Board for the delivery of all grains, except flax, since the beginning of the crop year; and the Board made it clear at the beginning of the season, that it would strictly enforce them. Some 60 Alberta farmers with grain to deliver, and, no doubt, with obligations which could not be conveniently met until further grain deliveries were possible, ignored the quotas and filled the space available in local elevators. They were prosecuted by the Board, and dealt with by the court.

Board orders necessarily have the effect of law. The Canadian Wheat Board is itself a creature of the Canadian Parliament. Compulsory marketing of grain through the Board would not be practicable, unless the Board possessed the power necessary to make its orders effective. Primarily to facilitate the work of the Board in a period of unusual difficulty, the government also appointed a transport controller. Moreover, so that the Board and the Transport Controller might work effectively together for the benefit of all grain producers, the orders of the Transport Controller were made to take precedence temporarily over the provisions in The Canada Gr Act for the operation of the car order book.

What happened in Alberta was that the farmers attempted to override the authority of Wheat Board, the Transport Controller, and of liament. What they did not understand, evide is that penalties are the inevitable companion controls; and that controls themselves are essential for compulsory orderly marketing. It is the violation, rather than the extent of it, which breaks the law and undermines social morality.